

Hafa Adai!

Chamber calls for govt to
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75¢

'CNMI economy sustaining momentum'

By **FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA**
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REPORTER

A positive forecast about the CNMI's economy was reported by a new First Hawaiian Bank economic analysis.

The 2015 economic forecast report was prepared for the bank by Dr. Maria Claret M. Ruane, resident development economist at the University of Guam-

Pacific Center for Economic Initiatives. "The economy of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

See CNMI on Page 4

» **FHB: Developments fuel economic optimism for 2015**

Fitial likely to attend today's pardon hearing

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Attorney Stephen Nutting, counsel for former governor Benigno R. Fitial, said yesterday that there is a substantial likelihood that Fitial will attend the Board of Parole's hearing for his pardon set to commence today, Tuesday, at



Fitial

» **Inos made a request for Board of Parole's consultation 2 days before Fitial sentencing**

9am, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos wrote a letter to Board of Parole chair Ramon B. Camacho, requesting for an initial and immediate consultation with the board to discuss the possible options available to him in the exercise of his constitutional power to grant pardon.

See FITIAL on Page 4



Lawmakers pin hopes on Dentons to understand draft EIS

By **JOEL PINAROC**
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REPORTER

CNMI legislators are pinning their hopes on a third-party consultant to finally provide a clearer understanding of the U.S. military's draft environmental impact statement on joint exercises and live-fire activities in the Commonwealth.

The lawmakers met with representatives of Dentons and its partner Environmental Science Associates yesterday on Capital Hill to discuss the initial findings of the consultancy firm.

Nicholas Yost, a partner at Dentons US LLC, told lawmakers that the firm's role is to "critique" the draft EIS and

See LAWMAKERS on Page 4

JOEL PINAROC
From left, Matthew Adams, partner at consulting firm of Dentons; Jim Kearny, biological director of ESA; and Nicholas Yost, also of Dentons; met with lawmakers yesterday on Capital Hill to discuss their initial findings on the U.S. military's draft environmental impact statement on proposed "live-fire" activities.

INSIDE



LOCAL

The burning of coconut husks for mosquito repellant triggered a fire that spread to a parked van and to a house's garage in As Perdido last Friday morning.

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NATION

Some of the same state troopers who spent three weeks hunting down two escaped killers found themselves scrambling to get the lone survivor to a hospital.

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LIFE & STYLE

Though she was absent, Beyonce won three BET Awards, including video of the year for "7/11," while Chris Brown and Nicki Minaj also won multiple awards at the all-star show Sunday night.

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Local

Chamber calls for govt to 'right-size' BSI project

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
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REPORTER

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce called on the government to look more into and right-sizing Best Sunshine International, Ltd.'s \$7.1-billion project in the CNMI.

Chamber president Alex Sablan said that "a hand-in-hand approach" between government and the developer is needed to ensure that the project will be "successful."

"The developer is going to do what it says it's going to do," Sablan said, "Is the developer developing what they want and wanting to maximize its profit? Yes. But how is the government going to maximize its opportunity?"

Sablan said the government

should have a strategic plan with regards to moving forward with the project and that the chamber is "ringing the bell" and asking where the plans are.

"If we don't talk about this, we don't get this plan in place, how can we realistically believe that we're going to generate a million and a half tourists which are what we're going to need in order to keep the hotels at 80 percent occupancy when you build almost 9,000 rooms here," Sablan said.

He added that CNMI's tourism industry can do a lot better especially if there will be a plan with regards to BSI's development.

"We think we can do a lot better if we have the right plan going forward with respect to this development. That's why we're

asking the government to take a more concentrated, asserted effort at putting their determination on how to right-size and plan out and determine how we can get a year-round movement of tourist inter-island so that we can spread out opportunity throughout the year," he said.

Mass market

One question that Sablan asked is if the CNMI will be able to develop the mass market needed for the upcoming project.

"When we plan to build an integrated resort, are we planning to build also a conference facility that we can use to improve our shoulder periods?" Sablan said.



Sablan

According to him, hotels in the islands are full during four out of 12 months, but are only around 70 percent occupancy the rest of the year.

He asked if the government will be partnering with BSI to promote the islands for conferences, exhibits, or expos as what is being done in other places like Hawaii and Singapore.

"We don't necessarily need to have somebody build a separate convention center. What we can have is somebody working from Best Sunshine to right-size the right conference or exhibit or convention center for the development we want in an integrated resort. That way we can promote in the off-periods,

throughout the year," he said,

Labor and infrastructure issues

Sablan also pointed out the huge number of workers that will be needed should an additional 4,000 rooms from BSI and a thousand more from other projects will be opened.

On room attendants alone, he estimates an additional 4,400 will be needed.

"The labor issue is a very big concern," Sablan said.

He also noted problems in air traffic as well as the lack of airlines and lack of space in the airport should the Commonwealth be increasing tourist arrivals.

"At this stage in the game, I have not seen any plan on airport extension. I have not seen

any plan for mass transit system," he said.

He said he also hasn't seen plans for improving utilities such as water services.

"We're asking the government to right-size this development. We think the number is too much. Four thousand rooms for one developer in this integrated resort project are too much, thinking as how we haven't done anything to improve infrastructure in the airports, infrastructure in the island," Sablan said.

"Maybe it's too early to worry about it, I don't know. I just don't think that we are in the game of planning for it and we're asking the government to see if it can take a look at it and if it makes sense," he added.

No explanation needed if Inos grants pardon

Gov. Eloy S. Inos is not obligated to offer an explanation or a reason should he exercise his power to give a pardon.

According to Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan), a former Board of Parole director, the CNMI Constitution allows Inos to give the pardon without any explanation

It is a matter of signing a document, Guerrero said. The lawmaker said after the court hands down the sentence, Inos could issue the pardon.

"The governor can issue the pardon even if the inmate has served one day of his sentence or have not started serving the sentence at all," Guerrero said.

According to Guerrero, even if the CNMI Board of Parole disagrees, the governor can still

issue the pardon.

Aside from a full pardon, the governor can also issue a conditional pardon in which the inmate can render service—at no cost to the government—as part of the conditions of his pardon, Guerrero said.

The issue of pardon emerged following the one-year prison sentence given to former governor Benigno R. Fitial after the former official was convicted of misconduct in public office and conspiracy to commit theft of services

The CNMI Board of Parole today arranged a pardon hearing for Fitial.

Board of Parole chair Ramon B. Camacho earlier placed a



Guerrero

newspaper announcement for the pardon hearing at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe today at 9am and, if necessary, the following day, July 1, at 9am.

In the announcement, Camacho said the board will be considering whether to support or object to a pardon for Fitial.

Camacho said after hearing public testimony and discussing the matter, the board will then vote on whether to support or object to Inos' issuance of a pardon.


In 2001, then governor Pedro P. Tenorio signed into law Senate Bill 12-102, which allows the highest official of the Com-

monwealth the power to pardon and exonerate a convicted felon.

The new law gives the governor the full capacity to grant pardon in accordance with the Crimes and Criminal Procedures under the Commonwealth Code.

SB 12-102, which is now Public Law 12-41, grants the Commonwealth governor and the Board of Parole a wider elbow room to discharge mandates stipulated under the existing law.

Under the law, the governor may grant an absolute pardon which frees a person without any conditions, terminates any punishment, and exonerates the person from any guilt or conviction, while a conditional pardon depends on performance of some act by the person for its validity and the partial pardon which remits only a portion of the punishment. *(Joel Pinaroc)*



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INVITATION FOR BIDS

NMC IFB 15-004

ROOF REPLACEMENT, BUILDING J, NMC AS TERLAJE, SAIPAN CAMPUS

Northern Marianas College is soliciting sealed bid for the Roof Replacement of Building J at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje, Saipan Campus.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, As Terlaje Campus, Saipan, commencing Tuesday, June 30, 2015 between the hours of 8: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting and site inspection for interested person, firms and corporation will be held on July 14, 2015 at 10:00am, NMC Procurement Management Office, Bldg. L, 2nd floor, conference room.

Bid Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., July 31, 2015, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. For Bidders located outside of the CNMI: you may request a copy of the IFB via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

This procurement is 100% Federally Funded by the United States Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.


In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

Approved by:

/s/ Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement Manager

/s/ David J. Attao
Dean of Administration Resource Development



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Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed Villora Condotel Residence under permit application No.SMS-2015-X-007. The permit application was submitted by the Venture Capital Group to construct 2-3 story resort-style condominium complex on 21,177 square meters of private land specifically on lot numbers 014 B 07 and 014 B 08. The Villora Condotel Residence will be situated in Achugao area. The proposal will incorporate a range of amenities including 112 Condominiums, 6-Villas, retail shop, clubhouse with swimming pool, library, 1-central swimming pool, paved driveways and parking lots.

The public hearing is scheduled for July 13, 2015, 5:00PM at the BECQ Conference room, Suite 205, Middle Road, Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mail to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, Caller Box 10007 or by fax at 664-8315. The project file is open for review and comment during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday thru Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application record and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed project.

Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Villora Condotel Residence project.

/s/ Frances A. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

NMTI offers short-term course for maintenance

The Northern Marianas Trade Institute will be offering a new program that is short-term and will give the student the skills needed to get a job quickly and easily.

According to NMTI Construction Trades director Rip Stephanson, the course will provide the skills necessary for the graduate to be a maintenance person or a handyman.

"The maintenance course gives the graduate enough skills to perform common basic repairs and maintenance needed in most institutional and hotel settings," Stephanson said.

The course, which can take about three months, involves 132 hours, and will have three phases: 1. basic safety, basic construction math, introduction to hand tools and power tools; 2. introduction to electrical circuits, electrical theory, basic electrical drawings, residential electrical service, and electrical test equipment and; 3. plumbing tools, plumbing drawings, plastic pipe and fittings, and introduction to drain and waste.

The course work will be accompanied by hands-on experience in these different areas.

According to Stephanson, the curriculum and testing is done under a non-profit organization called National Center for Construction Education and Research, which is approved by the U.S. Department of Labor and provides internationally recognized credentials.

Stephanson said that hotels and businesses are calling up weekly looking for people to perform maintenance.

"In terms of construction workers, right now there is a shortage. A fully trained construction worker cannot be created in less than one year. However, a helper with training in safety and basic skills can be created in three to four months," he said.

According to Stephanson, they will also have sessions sponsored by the Public School System for three middle schools in the coming month.

"The point is to expose kids at a younger age to things like baking, wood-working, plan reading, smart phone apps, etc. There will be over 100 kids total involved in this," Stephanson said. *(Frauline S. Villanueva)*

More technical assistance funding sought for CNMI

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) has offered an amendment to increase technical assistance funding for the CNMI and other U.S. insular areas.

In his weekly e-newsletter, Sablan said the Northern Marianas and other U.S. insular areas would get \$5 million more in technical assistance funding under an amendment he offered during a House debate on the fiscal 2016 Interior and Environment appropriation this week.

Sablan offered the amendment to House Resolution 28-22.

The House Appropriations Committee has proposed keeping funding at current levels for the Assistance to Territories program, the e-newsletter said.

"But as I told my colleagues,

the Department of the Interior needs additional resources to continue and complete multi-year projects that help the territories to develop economically and become more self-sufficient," Sablan said.

The lawmaker added that sustainable energy projects, school infrastructure upgrades, and the Coral Reef Initiative are just a few examples of Interior programs "that require continued investment."

Sablan said, "Interior Appropriations Subcommittee chairman Ken Calvert (R-CA) reluctantly opposed the amendment but offered to work with me to find the additional funding."

"The House will vote on my amendment when it returns after the July 4 recess," Sablan in his weekly update said. *(Joel Pinaroc)*

Lawmakers offer opposing views on same-sex marriage

By **JOEL PINAROC**
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REPORTER

CNMI lawmakers expressed opposing views on same-sex marriage, but are in agreement in supporting the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark

AG says they will be working with Inos admin in drafting regs

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Attorney General Edward Manibusan said yesterday that the U.S. Supreme Court has spoken on the issue of same sex marriage and that the ruling compels the states and territories to follow.

"Thus, the Commonwealth has to comply with the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of *Obergefell v. Hodges*," said Manibusan in his reply to *Saipan Tribune's* request for comment about the U.S. high court's ruling.

Manibusan said the Office of the Attorney General will be working with the administration of Gov. Eloy S. Inos at drafting regulations and con-

decision.

For House Floor Leader George Camacho (R-Saipan), the decision is a "victory for the people," because the SC's decision "trumps" every decision on such "sensitive" matters.

Camacho said he thinks the

forming the marriage applications to the ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court.

The AG did not indicate a timeframe as when they are going to finalize the regulations.



Manibusan

Inos earlier stated that he and Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres will consult with the AG and CNMI mayors to see how they can initiate the necessary changes to current regulations to comply with the U.S. Supreme Court and ensure an equal application of constitutional rights throughout the CNMI.

In the *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a historic ruling through a 5-4 vote that legalized same sex marriage across the 50 States and the Insular Areas such as the CNMI.

Safe Drinking Water program wins EPA honor

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**
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REPORTER

The Safe Drinking Water program, under the Bureau of Environmental Coastal Quality, has received national recognition for their data quality collection.

BECQ administrator Frank Rabauliman said the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently awarded the Safe Drinking water program with "most improved award" for data quality collection.

The branch earned the highest honors with the "platinum award."

Rabauliman said the exciting thing about the award is that "out of all the states and territories," he said, one branch bested the rest to get the award.

"We have a branch that manages safe drinking water. In the mainland, you would think a "department" of safe drinking water—they have more resources. So I was ecstatic when I heard," the administrator said.

The Safe Drinking Water and Ground Water Management Programs monitors the activities of all public water systems

in the CNMI and regulates access to and withdrawal of the ground water from fresh water aquifers.

The branch monitors these systems through the training, testing, and certification of water treatment plant operators, inspecting public water systems on a periodic basis, reviewing designs of new or modified public water systems, tracking the water monitoring and compliance activities of public water systems, and investigating drinking water violations and responding to drinking water complaints.

"It's not only for the fact that we manage this data here and how we readily send it to EPA," Rabauliman said. "But I think it's how we work with the regulated community and how well they are informed of what the regulations are so we don't get a lot of hits that there is enforcement here and enforcement there."

"[The award] has a lot to do also not just with us as the regulators but also the regulated community in understanding the importance of our safe drinking water," he added.

decision will not have much of an impact to the CNMI, stating that the decision "opens" the minds of people and that the CNMI is "moving forward" with the times.

He also dismissed notions that the historic decision will give a "black eye to the church" adding that he is supportive of the decision.

For Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), as a U.S. territory, the CNMI "has to honor the decision of the SC."

"Obviously, this is a very sensitive issue, but the ruling is already there," Demapan said, adding that, "times have changed."

Demapan said the decision is also about "fundamental freedom" accorded to citizens,

and that he supports it.

One good thing about the decision, Demapan said, is that governments now has a set of guidelines to use.

Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan) said he supports the landmark decision, but what he questions is the actual need for "marriage" between same-sex individuals.

"I support this decision of the Supreme Court," he said. "But what does marriage accomplish for these individuals?"

He said he also questions the "purpose" of same-sex marriage, although he made it clear that he respects gay people and has nothing against them.

"Will there be consequenc-

es if we allow this on the CNMI?" Guerrero said, adding that the SC decision may have an effect on a predominantly Catholic territory such as the CNMI?

He said he is urging leaders of the diocese in the CNMI to issue a statement regarding the issue.

On Monday, Gov. Eloy S. Inos issued a statement saying that he will consult with the Attorney General and CNMI mayors "to see how we can initiate the necessary changes to current regulations to comply with the ruling and ensure an equal application of our constitutional rights throughout the CNMI."

Inos said, "same-sex common law unions have been

in existence in our culture even before this ruling. In our small community, we either have family, friends, or know of people who are gay or lesbian couples."

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HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Happy anniversary to my sugar mama, best friend, wife, and soul mate— Leila Deleon Guerrero! Thank you for reminding me how fortunate and blessed I am each day! You have brought and continue to bring true happiness and joy to our family. I am truly honored to have you as my wife. Keep smiling and never forget that we love you nearly, dearly, and forever!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TO BOOST JAPANESE ARRIVALS:

‘Collaboration from Delta, major Japanese travel agents needed’

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Despite the consistent increase in visitor arrival numbers in the last few months, the tally coming from the CNMI's original source market, Japan, is dropping at a fast clip.

Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce said that MVA is collaborating with Delta Airlines and major Japanese travel agents to pick the market back up.

"We have several programs in the works through our Japan office to increase visitor arrivals from Japan. One significant effort is in collaboration with Delta and the major Japanese travel agents to increase utilization of Delta flights during the summer period," Aldan-Pierce said.

"The intent of this campaign is to demonstrate to Delta that there is strong interest among our key partners to reinstate DL 288 immediately following its November and December suspension," she added.

The Japan market is expected to go down further, as Delta Air Lines will reduce its flights to Saipan this winter. The peak of

Japanese arrivals to the CNMI was in 2005 with 352,099 visitors, just before Japan Airlines cancelled flights to the Commonwealth.

The lack of airlift to replace the loss of Japan Airlines service from Osaka and Narita and the loss of Delta Air Lines service from Nagoya meant that CNMI arrival numbers from Japan have fallen steadily since then.

The Fukushima earthquake and tsunami in 2011 and the consumption tax hike in April 2014 also significantly impacted Japanese visitor numbers, reaching a low of 110,234 visitors to the CNMI last year.

"The MVA in the CNMI, Japan, and in Korea are working in close collaboration with hoteliers and Osaka travel agents to build a strong case for Jeju Air to launch a flight from Osaka to Saipan. The determination will be made by Jeju headquarters in Seoul, Korea. We continue to reach out to other airlines including low cost carriers," Aldan-Pierce said.

Securing low-cost carriers that will fly to the Commonwealth and adding more hotel rooms is the key to boosting

Japanese arrivals to the islands.

Aside from Delta pulling out, Asiana Airlines has also reduced its flights to just once daily.

"The decision of Asiana Air Lines to suspend OZ 623 from Seoul to Saipan was due to an equipment shortage following the incident in Hiroshima. Prior to the official announcement of the suspension, the MVA appealed for Asiana's reconsideration and Asiana has since announced that they will be using a Boeing 747 four days and a A330 the remaining three days for its night flights for the month of June in order to recover lost capacity," Aldan-Pierce said.

The CNMI is expecting new developments from Best Sunshine Int. Ltd., Honest Profit, the opening of Kensington Hotel (former Palms Resort), along with other hotels going online, despite another possible decline on tourism.

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan and HANMI president Gloria Cavanagh have also expressed concern on the increasing developments and included the needed air service as our main

transportation.

"We have seen a fluctuation of air service this fiscal year as we always do, as capacity adjustments by airlines are a natural part of the industry. That said, the MVA continues to project an increase in visitor arrivals for fiscal year 2015," Aldan-Pierce said.

"The CNMI travel industry does not live in a vacuum and regional or global factors beyond our control have a significant influence on airlift and arrivals. We have seen our share of events that have negatively impacted travel demand to our islands; the price of oil, economic crisis in source countries, the fluctuation of the U.S dollar versus foreign currencies, health scares such as SARS, Ebola, and more recently MERS," she said.

"All these significantly influence travel to the CNMI. The reverse is also true. The stable economies of China and Korea for example have contributed to huge increases in arrivals from these two key source countries. The MVA fully understands the critical importance of air service as the primary vehicle to bring

tourists to our islands and this is top of mind at MVA headquarters and in our offshore offices," she said.

Aldan-Pierce also said that although the government fully appreciates the massive impact of tourism on the economy, regarding development of any kind, various government agencies play a crucial role in the process and as it relates to their mandate.

"Those mandates or objec-

tives are there for a reason. Anyone investing in our islands will understand this as the same applies in their home country. Tourism is a labor-intensive industry. We knew that the proposed zeroing out of foreign workers is unrealistic given the small labor population in our islands. The administration is painfully aware of this imminent threat to the tourism industry and efforts to address this concern are ongoing," she said.

LAWMAKERS

From Page 1

"advise" the CNMI government.

Matthew Adams, who is also a partner are Dentons, said the initial findings clearly indicate an "inadequate" draft EIS.

Adams also said one of the fundamental flaws of the EIS documents is that it presented a "narrow" set of alternatives.

Jim Keany, biological director and senior program manager at ESA, added that the draft EIS did not present a "cumulative impact" analysis and that it only looked at separate elements.

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), who chairs the House Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs, said the initial findings presented were "alarming."

"We are pinning our hopes on Dentons to provide us a clearer understanding of these documents," Demapan said, adding that he, like most of his colleagues, is excited to see the re-

port that Dentons will provide.

Rep. Vinson Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said he is glad that Dentons is on board for lawmakers "to see important information" that were not presented before.

For Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan), the draft EIS was full of "military jargon" and that he hopes Dentons will provide a report that will make it easier for the CNMI to understand certain content of the ESI particularly the National Environmental Policy Act process.

Rep. Blas Jonathan "B.J." Attao (Ind-Saipan), echoed the other lawmakers sentiments, saying that he hopes Dentons can "translate" the draft EIS to help the public understand it more clearly.

Dentons and ESA are currently working with other CNMI departments to conduct a series of public hearings on July 15, 16, and 17. The hearings are meant to generate more public comments on the draft EIS.

Name the Liberation Day mascot launched

The 2015 CNMI Liberation Festivities have unveiled the event's official mascot and need the public's help in naming it. The 2015 Liberation Mascot Naming Contest will officially start during tonight's kick-off event and will award a \$500 grand prize.

Pictures of the mascot were unveiled on the event's Facebook account yesterday: adorable Latte Stone-shaped people in assorted colors and accessories (like the traditional mwar)

The character in the forefront will be the main mascot while the various others behind it will be extensions of it and seen throughout the festivities.



These lovable characters, in all their variations, embody the Liberation Festivities' theme of "Peace in diversity." Their joyful faces convey the warmth of the welcoming "Hafa Adai" spirit that exists throughout the islands. Their various colors and accessories represent the different cultures and beliefs that call

the CNMI "home."

During tonight's Liberation Festivities Kick-off, the emcee will formally present the mascot to the island to ask for suggestions for the name. The winning suggestion will be announced on July 4 during the evening's events.

The mascots were created by

Shan Duan, a CG/FX artist, who is now based in Los Angeles and Seattle. His work has spanned campaigns ranging from feature films to commercials to AAA video game. His credits include *Frozen* and *Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters*. Duan has been recognized with numerous awards for his work and his collaborations with other designers and animators.

Contest entries can be submitted by private message through the official Facebook site #2015liberationdayfestival or via email, libfestenmi@gmail.com. Entries should include name and contact information. (PR)

CNMI

From Page 1

has been sustaining its growth momentum," Ruane said.

"These developments, especially in tourism, combined with U.S. federal spending as well as military activity already in place fuel economic optimism for 2015," she added.

In the report, she cited key developments such as sustained growth in tourism as well as construction of new hotels and a casino on Saipan.

"As expected, strong tourism has been driving economic growth in the CNMI, with three consecutive years of growth in arrivals since 2011, the last down year," Ruane said.

"The first quarter of 2015 brought 6.1 percent more visi-

tors than the same months of 2014," she said, noting that major increases from Korea and China compensated for significant drops from Japan and Russia.

"The main factor in these trends appears to be airline seat availability combined with promotional efforts by the Marianas Visitors Authority and its partners," Ruane said.

According to the report, increased spending by tourists and local residents alike can be seen from merchant credit and debit card activity processed by First Hawaiian Bank.

"The latest data shows card spending activity to be up 4.3 percent for the first quarter of 2015," Ruane said.

Another key development cited was the lower uncertainty with regards to federalization.

"This year brings more cer-

tainty and, to some extent, stability with regard to [the] CNMI's federalization process," Ruane said, noting that changes to immigration policies have been delayed because of the extension of the CW program.

In job growth, Ruane cited a recent report by the CNMI Department of Labor that shows 826 job openings posted during the first quarter of 2015.

Military plans for Tinian and Pagan that have been revealed and are currently under public review are also among the key developments.

"There appears to be strong and vocal opposition to the proposal, with particular concern about use of mortars and grenades. Even the Saipan Chamber of Commerce plans to change its earlier, more support-

ive position," the report noted.

Guam's 4th year of growth

Guam, on the other hand, is on its fourth year of growth since 2011.

"Guam's economy is in its fourth consecutive year of growth in 2015, thanks to promising developments in its main economic drivers—tourism, federal spending (including military spending), and real estate," the report said.

"Guam's low inflation, low unemployment, modest job growth and increased spending are expected to continue through 2015," Ruane said.

First Hawaiian Bank, with total assets of \$18.7 billion, was founded in 1858 and has been serving the Guam region for over 45 years. The bank operates 57 branches in Hawaii, two in the CNMI, and three in Guam.

FITIAL

From Page 1

Inos said such consultation will assist him in making the "right decision."

The letter, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune* from the Board of Parole's Office yesterday, showed that Inos made such request to the Board last June 22 or two days before Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced the 69-year-old Fitia to a one-year prison term.

"If this consultation meeting can be arranged at the earliest possible date, I would appreciate it very much," Inos said in the letter.

In a phone interview yesterday, Nutting said they are very hopeful that the Board of Parole will support Fitia's pardon.

Nutting said the letters of support for Fitia's pardon were submitted to the Board of Parole as the board requested.

Nutting said before the sentencing, he received 17 or so letters of support and that he submitted them to the court.

He said the Board of Parole should have the 17 letters because they're part of the criminal records.

A check with the Board of Pa-

role's Office showed that as of 3:21pm yesterday, the board's visitors sign-in sheet indicated that there were two persons who submitted letters.

Chief parole officer Shirley Camacho-Ogumoro said they will disclose how many total letters were received at the hearing today because some of the letters were handed directly to their staff.

Camacho-Ogumoro said five board members will be answering questions from the public at the hearing.

Chair Camacho said the board will be considering whether to support or object to a pardon for Fitia.

Camacho said after hearing public testimony and discussing the matter, the board will then vote on whether to support or object to Inos' issuance of a pardon.

The board set the pardon hearing after Inos made such request for consultation.

Wiseman allowed Fitia to start serving the prison term at the Department of Corrections on or before July 6, 2015.

Fitia signed a plea agreement with the government and pleaded guilty last May 13 to misconduct in public office and conspiracy to commit theft of services.

— INTEGRATED RESORT — FACT FINDING

Find out the future of Saipan

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Channel 14 every Wednesday
(repeats on Mon & Tue)

Organized by

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The best thing I could share regarding my visit to Singapore was to be able to experience all those wonderful places that we do not have here on our island. I learned so much; I experienced, exploring all the events and activities in Singapore. And it is not only about casinos, it is all about families having a great time.

Vicky Pangelinan, Unemployed



Saipan's current tourist industry is similar to integrated resorts like Sentosa. Current Saipan attractions include submarine tours, skydiving, local and professional entertainment, and many more. All of which can't be found in Sentosa. How will the current on-island attractions integrate into the Best Sunshine investment?

The size of the facilities goes hand-in-hand with local infrastructure development. New tourist venues will require water and proper sewage. The Singapore government was very active financially in supporting the development of the integrated resort. Saipan doesn't currently have the same financial resources. To be a success, the integration IR plan should be inclusive of government and the private sector with a focus on local residents.

Paul Zak, Business Consultant



Coconut husk burning leads to fire at van, house garage



DEREK GERSONDE

The van that was burned when fire caused by the burning of coconut husks for mosquito repellent spread to a house's garage in As Perdido on Friday morning.

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The burning of coconut husks for mosquito repellent triggered a fire that spread to a parked van and to a house's garage in As Perdido last Friday morning.

No one was reported injured in the fire, according to Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services spokesman Derek Gersonde yesterday.

DFEMS received a call about a fire on Friday at 8am, prompt-

ing firefighters to immediately respond.

Gersonde said the forestry unit was the first to arrive at the scene, followed by three other units.

Gersonde said firefighters controlled the blaze at 8:28am.

Arson investigation unit investigation showed that the fire was caused by the burning of coconut husks for mosquito repellent.

Gersonde said the husks were placed on a combustible material, which exceeded the height and width of the flame.

He said the fire spread to combustible materials and then to a van that was parked under a wooden tin structure.

Gersonde said the van was burned as well as part of the house's garage.

» DFEMS launches fireboat for Rota humanitarian mission



DEREK GERSONDE

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services personnel prepare yesterday to launch the fireboat at Smiling Cove on Saipan for a humanitarian mission to Rota.

Fisherman gets 21-day prison term for using gillnet

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday imposed a 21-day prison term on Angelo Ignacio C. Villagomez, who pleaded guilty to the offense of illegal use of a gillnet for fishing on Saipan.

"Illegally killing the CNMI's limited and precious fish and wildlife is a crime both to the present as well as the future children of the CNMI," Camacho said.

The judge said Villagomez used a type of gillnet that kills indiscriminately all types of fish similar to using poison or explosives.

Camacho said gillnets are highly regulated and require a special permit for a limited purpose and time, balancing the needs of the whole community for such events as village fiesta and other cultural events.

"When defendant Villagomez illegally used a gillnet for his own individual needs, he puts himself above the larger CNMI community," he said.

Villagomez pleaded guilty yesterday to the offense of illegal use of a fishing gillnet. He, through counsel assistant public defender Michael Sato, waived the need for a pre-sentence investigation report.

According to the factual basis of the guilty plea, on Dec. 9 to 12, 2014, Villagomez used an illegal gillnet to take fish from the waters of the CNMI.

Camacho accepted the guilty plea and sentenced Villagomez to the full maximum of 30 days, the first 21 days shall be served without parole, probation, or weekend release.

Villagomez was given credit for one day of time served.

Camacho said the remaining sentence is suspended and may be imposed in whole or in part for any violation of law or probation rules.

Camacho required the defendant to perform community work service by going to all public elementary schools (and any other private schools that make a request) and make a presentation to the students about the destructive use of gillnets.

"It is the hope of this court that from defendant's illegal actions some good can come out of it when the students learn to appreciate and respect the CNMI's limited and precious fish and wildlife," he said.

Camacho ordered the defendant to pay a \$500 fine, \$25 court costs, and \$100 probation fee.

After completing the prison term, Villagomez will be placed on one-year probation and required to undergo 100 hours of community work service.

Villagomez has a prior criminal conviction when he pleaded guilty to a 1996 case for illegal possession of less than an ounce of marijuana.

Villagomez was arrested by Division of Fish and Wildlife Investigation Unit officers last Dec. 15 for fishing using gillnet at Lau Lau Beach dive spot.

DFW officer Erwin Flores said DFW received a call from a concerned citizen, reporting that Villagomez had been fishing at Lau Lau Beach with a gillnet, selling the fish, and using the proceeds to buy methamphetamine or "ice."

NMC board to issue determination on Hart's contract status today

After hours of deliberation, the Northern Marianas College is set to issue a statement on the contract status of college president Dr. Sharon Hart.

The NMC Board of Regents continued yesterday their discussions on Hart's contract.

Hart's contract expires in July, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

"A statement will be released tomorrow once everything is reviewed for legal sufficiency,"

said NMC director of institutional effectiveness Jacqueline Che.

The NMC board completed their evaluation of Hart last November. Then-board chair Frank Rabauliman could not comment on the outcome of the evaluation because it was a personnel issue. The board evaluates the NMC president annually based on goals and objectives they both agree on the previous year.

Last fiscal year's end goals for NMC included secured reaffirmation of accreditation, which was achieved this year in February. NMC was also approved for a six-year accreditation with the WASC Senior College and University Commission in July. Other goals assessed in the evaluation included priorities in student success, continuous quality improvement, and the CNMI workforce. **(Dennis B. Chan)**



Century Hotel

Is inviting qualified U.S Citizens to apply for the following vacant positions

Position: (1) BARTENDER

Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent with minimum 2 years work experience in the preparation of mixed cocktails required. Strong communication and interpersonal skills are essential. Able to work flexible hours including evenings and/or weekends.

Position: (2) HOUSEKEEPING CLEANER

Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. 6 months to 1 year prior cleaning experience in a large building complex is preferred but willing to train the right candidate. Must be able to lift and carry up to 30 pounds. Must have attention to detail working carefully within the minimum time is essential. Can work flexible schedule including weekends, nights, holidays, and back-to-back when necessary.

Position: (1) GUEST RELATIONS SUPERVISOR

Qualifications: 2 years experience in front office in a supervisory capacity and preferably from a full service hotel/resort. Must be able to supervise and coordinate the activities of guest relations workers to ensure that guests on vacation or business travel have a pleasant experience, while also ensuring the establishment is run efficiently and profitably. Must be proficient in computer software applications. Strong customer service and time management skills are essential. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends, and nights.

Position: (1) GUEST RELATIONS AGENT

Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. 1-2 years previous work experience as guest relations agent in a high volume hotel is highly preferred. Language speaking skill in Japanese, Korean or Chinese is advantageous. Strong customer service and communication skills are essential. Must have good problem solving skills. Must be able to multitask and is a team player. Knowledge of computer applications is required. Must be able to work flexible schedule including nights, weekends, and holidays.

Position: (2) GENERAL MAINTENANCE WORKER

Qualifications: 2 years experience as a general maintenance worker in repairing or replacing defective equipment parts, using hand tools and power tools and re-assemble equipment is required. Must be able to work independently. Must be able to carry and lift up to 35 pounds. Must be a team player and has good interpersonal skills. Able to work flexible schedule including nights, weekends, and holidays.

Position: (1) A/C REFRIGERATION TECHNICIAN

Qualifications: ER preference. High school graduate must be able to read electrical wiring diagrams and control diagrams. Should be able to troubleshoot refrigeration A/C and refrigeration equipments. Electrical experience is a must and experience is a plus. Must be willing to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

Applications may be obtained and submitted to the Security Office of Fiesta Resort & Spa located on the South Wing, ground floor. Dead-line for submission of applications to be considered is July 6, 2015.

Century Hotel is an Equal Opportunity Employer



2015.6.30 - 8.16

PEACE IN DIVERSITY**2015CNMI****LIBERATION
FESTIVITIES****Hon. David M. Apatang** Mayor of Saipan**Dr. Hu Bo** Managing Director, Skywalker Communications Group

"KICK-OFF CELEBRATION"
"YOU ARE INVITED"
"JOIN THE FUN"

30TH JUNE GARAPAN FISHING BASE 6:00 PM

6:00pm: Posting of Colors-JROTC
 6:10pm: Singing of U.S. & CNMI Anthems
 6:20pm: Invocation
 6:25pm: Welcoming Remarks
 Chris Leon Guerrero
 Chairman, 2015 Liberation Day
 6:30pm: Brief Remarks
 Hon. David M. Apatang
 Mayor of Saipan
 6:35pm: Brief Remarks
 Dr. Hu Bo
 Managing Director, Skywalker Communications Group
 6:40pm: Introduction of 2015 Candidates
 Mrs. Laila Younis-Boyer
 Chairwoman, 2015 Royal Court Committee

6:45pm: Ceremonial Ribbon Cutting Opening the Ground
 7:00pm: Announcement of Official Opening
 7:05pm-7:15pm: Releasing of Liberation Day Mascot Image
 and Recruiting Mascot Names
 7:15pm-8:15pm: Out of the Ordinary Band
 8:15pm-8:45pm: Japanese Drums
 8:45pm-9:15pm: Pacific Flores
 9:15pm-9:45pm: Flores Sinser
 9:45pm-10:15pm: Luis Laforte
 10:15pm-11:00pm: Jamaican Tagantagan

MVA: Unfortunate new lease agreement turns to RFP

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority describes as unfortunate the Department of Public Lands' decision to solicit proposals on expiring public land leases, which affects a number of hotels in the CNMI.

"The MVA has been in several HANMI (Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Islands) meetings that touched on the impending expiration of public land leases of several ma-

ior hotels. The MVA supported HANMI members' request for the DPL to consider entering into a new lease agreement with the existing land leaseholders. Per DPL's letter, however, this is no longer a consideration unfortunately," managing director Perry Tenorio said in an email.

As of now, Marianas Resort & Spa isn't happy with DPL's decision and will submit its initial response on the issue.

Marianas Resort is the first hotel with an expiring public land lease in April 2018. Other hotels

with upcoming expiring leases through 2025 are Hyatt Regency Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Kanoa Resort, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

HANMI president and general manager for Marianas Resort Gloria Cavanagh earlier supported the idea regarding their respective lease proposals.

Cavanagh, in an earlier interview, said that they had a very positive meeting with DPL Sec-



Tenorio

retary Pete A. Tenorio a year ago about expiring hotel land leases. However, the recent decision now has put HANMI on alert.

HANMI members account for most of the hotel rooms in the CNMI. HANMI provided the CNMI \$13.2 million in hotel occupancy tax as well as \$4.4 million in gross revenue receipts. As of now HANMI has more than a 1,000 employees.

Some member hotels of

HANMI are holding back on making future investments on their hotels if they cannot get any assurances that their land lease agreements will be extended.

Without such an assurance, hotels whose public land leases are close to expiration say the uncertainty is putting a damper on their plans to improve amenities and raise hotel standards.

In an earlier interview Cavanagh said that, without the assurance of their continued stay, the quality of HANMI hotels is going to be lower because no one is going to put in the mil-

lions of dollars in investment.

"It doesn't create a very good market for new investors coming in and being on time and meeting our commitment. A new kid in town can come and say I want that property and you're out. They'll think twice about investing. We all have been here for 30-plus years and through thick and thin. When Japan Airlines pulled out, we have proven that we want to stay and be contributing corporate citizens and if I want to look at a long term investment, I want to see first how we are treated," Cavanagh said.

CRM board approves BSI major siting app

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Regulatory officials approved last Friday Best Sunshine, Ltd.'s major siting permit application for a 14-story casino resort in the heart of Garapan.

Division of Coastal Resources Management director Fran Castro confirmed that the CRM board, which is comprised of representatives of different local regulatory agencies, approved the application.

The new development, or the "Grand Mariana Casino Resort" is part of Best Sunshine's first phase of operations as the island's exclusive casino licensee.

In their permit application, BSI forecasted construction, labor, and guest numbers in the major siting permit application.

On local labor demands, BSI projects that out of a total 650 staff, there will be a required 423 local workers in business years one and two.

In Year 3, out of a projected total of 1,500 workers, BSI will be required to have 975 locals working. In Year 4, BSI projects this number to grow to 1,138 locals out of a total 1,750 workers. In Year 5, this increases to 1,219 local workers out of 1,875

workers total.

From business years six to seven, BSI would be required to have 1,300 locals employed out of their total 2,000 projected employees.

For visitor arrivals, BSI's casino resort destination is forecasted to represent a visitor arrival increase of approximately 15 percent over 2013 arrivals in year one.

In Year 1 and 2 of their "business plan," BSI projects 65,700 guests. In Year 3, they project 197,100 guests. In Year 4, this is projected to grow to 229,000 guests.

In Year 5, BSI projects 246,375 guests. And from years six to 10, they project 262,800 guests.

BSI's proposed construction costs are estimated at \$165 million, as also disclosed in their earlier Zoning application. However, they have noted, this estimate is still under review.

Best Sunshine has also begun design on an approximately 8,500-foot sewer force main, or pressurized pipe system, to accommodate waste flows from its hotel. Other off-site include improvements to Hibiscus Street and the repair of the oft-polluted open-air canal beside the hotel property.



OPERATION DEVIANT GUARD

Officers and officials from the United States Marshals Service District of Guam and NMI, Department of Public Safety, and other local and federal agencies gather for a photo in front of the CNMI Judiciary Complex in Susupe after a press conference on Friday regarding their fifth "Operation Deviant Guard," a three-day compliance check targeting sex offenders. The operation successfully located and verified for compliance checks 55 registered sex offenders on Saipan.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

CUC holds 'annual' meeting today

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is set to present today its first annual report since Gov. Eloy S. Inos restored power to it's board of directors in April last year.

On the agenda for today's meeting is the annual executive director's report, an annual

board chairperson's report, and financial and budget reports.

Executive director Alan Fletcher is not expected to be at the meeting tomorrow, as he has taken vacation leave before the expiration of his contract on July 14. Fletcher sent in his resignation letter in May.

"The acting executive director will be announced at tomorrow's board meeting," said CUC public information officer Brad Ruszala when asked.

Right now, CUC's deputy executive director, division manager for drinking water and wastewater, and the technical manager for oil positions are vacant despite recent national and

internal recruitment efforts. The executive director position joins these long unfilled positions.

CUC now has vacant four of the eight senior management positions required under "Stipulated Order No. 1," which was signed by the federal court in 2009 to reverse longstanding compliance and public health issues at CUC. (Dennis B. Chan)

program is held on the island. The program will conclude today with a moot court competition which starts at 1:00 p.m. in the Supreme Court.

June 30, 2004

Derelict vessel sinks at Saipan port

At the height of Typhoon Tingting Monday, the Mwaaalil Saat, a 93-foot derelict fishing vessel moored at the Mariana's Public Land Authority, was found sunk and located adjacent to Able Dock of the Port of Saipan in 20 feet of water.

Agencies immediately went to the site and saw the sunken vessel, with a diesel oil sheen around it and a trail of black oil that was dissipating north to Lower Base due to the bad weather. The USCG decided to remove the entire vessel as it posed a direct threat to public safety because of its immediate proximity and threat to oil tankers offloading fuel oil, gasoline and lube oil at

Able Dock in the Port of Saipan.

DOL pushes for further probe on company

The Department of Labor is pushing for further investigation of a company following initial findings that it is operating without authorization and legal representatives. DOL hearing officer Jerry Cody, in a June 17 administrative order, said that based on numerous issues raised against L&B Corp., the matter should be remanded to the Division of Labor for investigation. This came after L&B filed transfer applications for 10 potential employees from May through October 2003, which were cited for deficiencies. DOL said it received no corrective documents from the employer, prompting it to issue a denial notice for each application in April 2004. In the order, Cody also denied the permit transfer applications submitted by L&B for 10 non-resident workers, including Lin. The appeal of the denial order is

deferred pending resolution of the investigation.

June 30, 2005

23 nurses pass NCLEX

Twenty-three of the 25 nurses working at the Commonwealth Health Center who were required to take the National Council Licensure Examination this year passed the exam, representing a passing rate of 92 percent. According to administrative services manager Marciana Igitol, there were 35 hospital nurses who were required to take the NCLEX to secure their tenure in the hospital, but only 25 of them took on the challenge. Four more of the nurses took the NCLEX and passed the exam during a separate examination date, increasing the list of successful examinees to 27 registered nurses this year. The NCLEX is required by the Nurse Practice Act. Depending on their level of nursing education and training, a nurse may either take the NCLEX-RN, for

registered nurse or NCLEX-PN, for practitioners.

CHC gets bigger fuel tank

The Commonwealth Health Center could now better respond to emergency situations, especially during islandwide power outages, with the acquisition of a bigger fuel tank for its power generator. The Department of Public Health is in the final stages of completing its fuel tank upgrade, with Public Health Secretary James U. Hofschneider confirming that the 12,000-gallon fuel tank would be completed by July. The fuel tank replaces the 1,000-gallon fuel tank that formerly serviced the hospital. Besides the fuel tank upgrade, the CHC is also being fitted with new typhoon-proof windows. Hofschneider said the new windows would protect the rooms of patients and hospital staff from water leaks brought about by heavy rains as well as strong winds during storms and typhoons.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 30, 2000

Local police gets training on proper use of kids car seat

As improper use of children car seats has resulted in the increase in the number of deaths among children, the Department of Public Safety has invited instructors from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to provide training to police officers fire fighters on how to properly install child seats. Due to new car technology, Mr. Hirata noted that latest vehicle models have additional features (airbags, side impact airbags) that are affecting child safety. The training will also show police officers how to use devices found in the cars prop-

erly, i.e., the tether anchors in the back of the car which can hold the child's seat properly once it is hooked on this. Also with Mr. Haruta are Mary Jo Sweeney, Kauai instructor, and John Kaizuka, Hawaii Instructor.

CNMI bar donates \$5k pre-law program

The CNMI Bar Association yesterday donated \$5,000 to Attorney General Herbert Soll for the summer pre-law program. Acting CNMI Bar Association president Maya Kara, executive director Remy Sablan and Perry Inos, member of the committee, presented a check to Mr. Soll to cover the expenses for this summer's program involving 18 students. This is the seventh time that the summer pre-law

Physical therapy, massage recommended for Fitial

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has requested and recommended to Department of Corrections Commissioner Robert Guerrero to make reasonable efforts to accommodate treatments for convicted former governor Benigno R. Fitial.

In a written sentencing order issued on Friday, Wiseman made such recommendation to DOC commissioner Guerrero in view of the 69-year-old Fitial's need to continue physical treatment therapy.

Wiseman requested Guerrero to allow the former chief executive to continue to have his physical therapist provide him the therapy he needs.

The judge said in the physical therapist's absence, he asked Guerrero to allow him to have the physical massages he needs as an interim or supplemental therapy.

Last Wednesday, Wiseman slapped Fitial with six years in prison, all suspended except one year.

Wiseman ordered Fitial to pay a \$6,000 fine and \$100 in court assessment fee.

On the restitution matter, Wiseman ordered Fitial to pay it in amount to be determined at a later time.

Fitial was ordered to start serving the prison term at DOC on or before July 6, 2015. His release date is July 6, 2016.

On Thursday, the Board of Parole arranged a pardon hear-

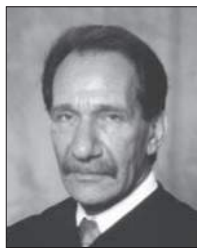
ing for the former governor.

Board of Parole chair Ramon B. Camacho placed a newspaper announcement for the pardon hearing at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on June 30 at 9am and, if necessary, the following day, July 1, at 9am.

In the announcement, Camacho said the board will be considering whether to support or object to a pardon for Fitial.

Camacho said after hearing public testimony and discussing the matter, the board will then vote on whether to support or object to Gov. Eloy S. Inos' issuance of a pardon.

In a phone interview, Cama-



Wiseman

cho said an individual requested the board to hold a pardon hearing so they have to act on it by setting a public hearing.

Camacho said pursuant to the constitution, the governor has to consult with the board on the issue of granting pardon to Fitial.

Wiseman allowed Fitial to start serving the prison term at DOC on or before July 6, 2015, after attorney Stephen Nutting, counsel for Fitial, informed the court that the former governor needs to go back to the Philippines in the next few days for his ongoing medical rehabilitation/treatment.

Fitial signed a plea agreement with the government and

and they take you to the revetment site, there are 1,000-lb bombs, 500-lb bombs just lying there, all over," he said.

According to DEQ, with the likely potential of unexploded ordnance and other World War II-vintage explosive components at the Pina Plateau area, the area presents a likely significant health and physical hazards to general public. Additionally, the Pina Plateau is one of the few large public lands available on Tinian for economic development projects, which is also outside of the two-thirds of the U.S. military controlled area, DEQ said.

Tinian's Pina plateau under assessment

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pina Plateau on Tinian, a site eyed by the Tinian municipality for an island landfill, is also currently undergoing assessment for ordnance and munitions left over by the U.S. military.

The Pina Plateau is approximately 600 acres, immediately adjacent to a former U.S. military ordnance storage depot known as the Masalog Ridge Area. According to the Division of Environmental Quality, due to its close proximity to the Masalog Ridge area, and

as a result of the airstrikes of Tinian during World War II, there is a likely potential of UXOs within the Pina Plateau area as have been found elsewhere on Tinian.

In an interview, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality administrator Frank Rabauliman said the site is broken down into three sites: the Pina plateau, and the Pina ridge, which hold a "munitions depot site" and the "revetment," or a storage for UXOs or munitions.

"I believe the part of the ridge, the Pina Site has been

looked at as a proposed landfill. The idea is to try and get the assessment going so it in the event that funding for further assessments...studies for a landfill can begin," he said.

According to Rabauliman, the Department of Public Lands is using the \$750,000 awarded years from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to clean up the site.

He said BECQ did work, or "Phase 1," of the plateau assessment and now Public Lands is working on the rest.

Describing the revetment, he said, "If you go down to Tinian

Docomo donates to Typhoon Dolphin victims on Rota

By **FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA**
frauline_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Docomo Pacific donated money for the victims of Typhoon Dolphin on Rota.

The telecommunications company presented a check amounting to \$2,000 to the Rota relief drive.

According to Docomo Pacific vice president for customer care Elizabeth Henry, they decided

to help because of the customers that they have in Rota.

"After we heard about the devastating effect Typhoon Dolphin had on the people of Rota we knew we had to help. Docomo Pacific has many long-time loyal customers on Rota and we wanted to give back to the community that has supported us so well over the years," Henry said.

Henry presented the check

along with their PR for sales and marketing Pauline Johnson, cable network operation manager Jaynard White, and store manager Conrad Sablan Jr. last Thursday at the Docomo office in Gualo Rai.

"We know this donation will be used to help the residents and we were glad to contribute to the relief fund established by the Mayor of Rota," Henry said.

The donation was received

by Rep. Glenn Maratita (R-Rota), Sen. Steve Mesngon (R-Rota), and Albert Taitano who were happy with the help.

"We know this donation will be used to help the residents and we were glad to contribute to the relief fund established by the Mayor of Rota," Henry said.

Rota was hit hard by Typhoon Dolphin, passing near the island last May.



FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA

Docomo Pacific donated \$2,000 to the Rota relief drive for Typhoon Dolphin victims. Among those who received it were Rep. Glenn Maratita (R-Rota) and Sen. Steve Mesngon (R-Rota).

pleaded guilty last May 13 to misconduct in public office and conspiracy to commit theft of services, making him to become the first governor of the CNMI convicted of crimes.

The offense of misconduct in public office refers to the time when Fitial had his masseuse—a female Chinese who was at that time a federal prisoner at DOC—temporarily released so

she could massage him at his house on Jan. 8, 2010.

The conspiracy to commit theft of services refers to Fitial's role in former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham's efforts to evade lawful service of process during his departure from the Commonwealth at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport on Aug. 3 or 4, 2012.

Rotary Club Saipan to swear in new officers and members

By **FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA**
frauline_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

New officers and members of Rotary Club Saipan will be sworn in and inducted at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan tonight.

Curtis Dancoe, who will be sworn in as club president, said that they are excited for this coming Rotary year.

Dancoe has been with the Rotary Club for over 15 years and has been part of three different clubs including Rotary Club of Northern Guam.

In his new term, Dancoe is bringing back the president-elect position which will be filled by Ivan Illov.

Aside from them, new officers to be sworn in are Brian Clayton as vice president, Marcia Ayuyu as secretary, Thomas Thornburg as treasurer, and Wayne Gillespie as sergeant-at-arms.

"We're really excited. These are members that have been with the club for two or more years and served in the capacity of a directorship and they moved up to become officers,"

Dancoe said.

Directors for the new Rotary year include Larry Philips, Elitza Stoilova, Wendell Posadas, Richard Cody, Sapuro Rayphand, and Ben Babauta.

According to Dancoe, the new officers and directors "have been committed."

They will be sworn in by Superior Court Associate Judge B. Perry Inos. The gavel will also be passed on to Dancoe from outgoing president Richard Cody.

The club will also be inducting a new member, bringing the current number of Rotary members to 41.

"We're really excited with our membership retention and we will continue to grow our membership," Dancoe said.

Aside from Rotary, members of Rotaract and Interact Clubs will also be present in the ceremony.

The Rotary will also be awarding this year's Rotarian of the Year and Citizen of the Year.

Dancoe will also talk about the Rotary Club's new theme for their new year which is "Be a gift to the world."

1M gallon water tank in Puerto Rico comes online

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the CNMI Water Task Force announced the completion of a multimillion-dollar project which figures prominently in providing reliable water service to customers in Puerto Rico and the surrounding communities.

On Tuesday, June 30, CUC will integrate the newly completed one million-gallon tank into the system, immediately improving water service to customers in Puerto Rico, Sadog Tasi, Lower Base, and portions of Garapan.

In 2014, the CNMI Water Task Force, in partnership with CUC, began work on the replacement of the dilapidated Puerto Rico water storage tank after an inspection revealed the failure of roof support rafters and other weaknesses in the tank that threatened failure.

The project was designed by Duenas, Camacho & Associates and construction of the tank was contracted to AIC Marianas. The first phase of

the project began in August 2014 with the demolition of the pre-existing tank. The welded steel tank will provide reliable water storage to customers in Garapan, Puerto Rico, Lower Base, and Sadog Tasi for the next 30 years.

The \$2-million project was funded through a generous \$1.5-million grant from the United States Economic Development Administration and \$500,000 in matching funds from the Department of Interior-Office of Insular Affairs.

If you have any comments or concerns about the water in your area, or would like information about our other water projects, contact the CUC Water Division at (670) 322-5030/31 or the Call Center at 664-4CUC (4282).

CUC is a non-profit autonomous agency of the CNMI government. The utility provides electric power, water, and wastewater services to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. (CUC)

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

At the end of June

The end of June has come. We reflect on what transpired, a summing up for the editorial desk's benefit. Sometimes the product is shared like the one in April; at other times, it is but a yellow pencil on our earlobe like May.

But June burst out all over! *Saipan Tribune* editorial attended an event of tea, origami, and a movie in a two-hour Thursday afternoon at the end of May at the Saipan Consulate of Japan. A 99-minute anime "Nitaboh" (2004) was the mainstay of the event.

Sinosphere pictograph before it became ideographic is well known, later adopted its own phonetics. We note the 15th century Korean Sejong's hangul reforms on the hanja, with Japan's Meiji wrestling the kanji to sound starting 1868, comrade Mao's putonghua simplified in 1949, and the Vietic integration of influences of Zhonghua, la langue française, and gringo 'Mericano, aka, GenAm from the Viet War, all getting phonetic.

Comes Let's Play Language advocates a method of learning language to "play with" rather than "study" (aka, memorize), focusing on word use in spoken familiar words such as the parts of one's body and the garments one wear, before learning the strictures of writing and reading, grammar and syntax.

"Play" is normally reserved for break time in public school systems, a recess before seriously hitting the texts again. "Quiet in the classroom" is the rule so that one can hear one's self think!

What if "play" is the tenor and tone of classrooms, and "serious" is the reflective mode at recess and break times? What if we are accused of lacing our vocab with malice?

Our editorial piece, characterized by a reader in the use of "slurred" Juneteenth of Lolo Jose as "racist and offensive, because it plays upon the old stereotype that African-Americans just shuffle along slowly without picking up their feet and are even too lazy to open their mouths all the way, so that their words come out all slurred and garbled," we double checked if we had failed our alma mater's granting us a B.A. in English.

The offending line was from the opening paragraph: The slaves slurred their words and June 19 became "Juneteenth"!

The last we checked in our dictionary, the verb "slur's" primary meaning is to "speak indistinctly so that the sounds run into one another," thus, "June Nineteenth" becoming Juneteenth. Our SF reader went on to tell us that we meant it the way he read it, racist and offensive.

Picasso on the bull and horse in Guernica, when asked about their meaning, he said, "... This bull is a bull and this horse is a horse.... If you give a meaning to certain things in my paintings it may be true, but it is not my idea to give this meaning.... I paint the objects for what they are."

Like the tea-origami-movie at the Consulate of Japan, it was simply tea-origami-movie. The shikantaza, its essence, is in the participants' mind. Our editorial looks like it unearthed and itched what was on someone's mind. We'll go beyond just an opinion: Juneteenth was slurred! That's a bull.

The days of June were delivered. We close both its zen and bursting days!

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MARIANAS MATTERS

Environmental promises of EPA and DOI—can they deliver?

The Pacific Islands Environmental Conference recently concluded its 28th session held in June in American Samoa. In attendance were federal agencies led by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), private sector interests, non-profit groups, and local island government officials from the U.S. flag areas. The conference was co-sponsored by the CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Quality Control, along with the Guam EPA and the host American Samoa EPA.

What caught my attention more than anything else, much to the delight of the predominately American Samoa audience was the bold vision and proclamation by Jared Blumenthal, Region 9 Administrator of EPA, whose responsibilities encompasses Hawaii and the U.S. Pacific Islands, that the Manua Islands would be targeted as "the first islands in the world to be 100-percent powered by renewable energy." To this end, he pledged to introduce electric vehicles to the territory, including installing a solar battery storage on Manua. He assured American Samoa that he will work with them to increase recycling, hopefully decreasing their dependence on the need for a landfill.

Blumenthal displayed a keen sensitivity to the Pacific Islands by acknowledging the special relationship that Island people have to the ocean. "For generations, Pacific Islanders have learned how to work together to cross the vast ocean. They did this by being wise navigators and by paddling in unison," said Blumenthal, an obvious nod to our rich cultural heritage of exploration and our penchant of always looking for ways to work together as Pacific Islanders.

He recognized the long-standing concerns that Pacific Island inhabitants harbor of the dangerous and unhealthy materials and substances that are being dumped into the ocean all too easily. He was quick to praise the compliance efforts by Pacific Island governments to implement provisions of the Clean Water Act aimed at curbing pollution and erosion and to ensure that coastal waters are protected in the face of climate change. Blumenthal pledged to have the EPA do more in partnering with the Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Esther Kia'aina's office and NOAA to assist the islands with climate adaptation tools for their coastal reefs and water utilities. He also offered kind words for Island efforts in utilizing more solar energy in their respective jurisdictions.

Kia'aina also convened a week before Blumenthal's conference in American Samoa her Climate Change Stakeholder Meeting in Guam. In addition to the CNMI, Guam and American Samoa, participating officials included those from the Federated States of Mi-

By **MUFI HANNEMANN**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Mufi Hannemann is a Harvard-educated former mayor of Honolulu. He is the principal of MFH Enterprises and is the chair and founder of the Pacific Century Fellows program.



cronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, the U.S. Virgin Islands, NGO representatives, and academicians. Besides offering and discussing myriad ways to handle and manage climate change, the conference at Kia'aina's insistence was eager to gather information to take back to Washington to position her office to better identify and advocate for funding sources to assist with the implementation of action plans and ideas that arose from the Stakeholder Meeting. She pledged to improve the islands' "capacities for climate change adaptation and resiliency strategies."

There is a tendency at times and it is prevalent in the islands or in underserved or rural communities throughout the nation to look askance or take a "wait-and-see approach" when federal government officials make promises that appear to be difficult, challenging, or grandiose. How many times have we reacted by saying, "the rhetoric was beautiful but can they really deliver? Our doubts and questions are exacerbated when we don't really know who these federal officials are and have no history of dealing with them.

In the case of Assistant Secretary Kia'aina, we are very familiar with her background. The Guam-born native not only has roots deep in this area, but has a track record of accomplishments in Hawaii. Her family resides in a predominantly Native Hawaiian area on Oahu, so in addition to her familiarity with Micronesian issues, she is very well versed in Hawaiian and Polynesian subjects as well. Having worked as a key assistant to former Hawaii U.S. Senator Dan Akaka and U.S. Congressman Ed Case, she developed an outstanding reputation for being an astute administrator and amassed a wealth of knowledge and contacts in the nation's Capitol. Esther was extremely resourceful and helpful to me when I had to lobby Washington to keep Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard from closing when I was Honolulu mayor. Lastly, she has always had a strong environmental background. Her last government post in Hawaii before she headed off to Washington again was serving as the deputy director of the all-important State Department of Land and Natural Resources. Most importantly, in all my personal and professional dealings with Kia'aina, I have found her to be hard working, trustworthy, and a person of her word. She is the "real deal."

And what about the San Francisco-based Blumenthal? Unlike Kia'aina, unless you are a government official working on issues dealing with the EPA, it's safe to say you haven't heard of him. My position as mayor of Honolulu compelled me to get to know

See **MARIANAS MATTERS** on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Refugee total reaches a record high, but does that obscure a march of progress?

WASHINGTON—We learned in school about modern history's cruelest man-made refugee crises—the Russian pogroms of the 1880s, World War I and World War II, which displaced 40 million people in Europe alone.

The history curriculum should be revised before fall classes. In sheer numbers, there were more refugees in the world in 2014 than ever recorded.

Last year, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reported that more than 40 million refugees and displaced persons roamed the world for the first time since World War II. Since then, 42,500 people a day, half of them children, became refugees, displaced (refugees in their native country) or asylum seekers. The UNHCR estimates in its new report that there are now about 59.5 million refugees.

"Worldwide, one in every 122 humans is now either a refugee, internally displaced or seeking asylum," the report states. If the population of refugees were a country, it would be the 24th largest in the world.

Syria, Afghanistan and Somalia, their battles partly fueled by ancient religious and tribal timber, are the major sources of new refugees. The refugees of the 21st century are not fleeing the world's great powers, as in the past; they are far away from America, from Europe, from the developed Asian nations and far from the culture and historical memory of the developed, prosperous world.

Some big thinkers, the optimists, take the view that it is a very good thing, a sign of great progress, that the most powerful nations aren't at war, aren't still colonizing the world and are, if marginally, making their citizens safer and healthier. Smaller countries and less developed ones will join this march of progress, slowly but inevitably.

The pessimists see today's refugee crisis as a sign of, well, absolutely nothing.

Today's refugee crisis, they say, shows that smaller wars, crusades and genocides, set in places without global power, sometimes without real states, can create as much suffering as the wars and empires of the textbooks.

Yes, the pessimists concede, the superpowers have played nicely if noisily for the past six or seven decades, but in the age of nuclear weapons, that could change in a moment. If water, fossil fuel and food grow scarce in an overpopulated, overcooked planet, Waterloo will look like Lake Wobegon. There is no march of progress, only cycles and lucky moments.

This is perhaps the most fundamental divide in how people see the course of human events: a march of human progress versus survival in an untamable world with no special direction or narrative.

Two world-class intellectuals got into a sparkling trans-Atlantic argument about this recently.

Stephen Pinker is a cognitive scientist and roving idea-factory at Harvard and the author of "The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined."

His argument is roughly that it is a scientific and statistical fact that the world is less violent than ever; there are proportionally fewer deaths by war, conquest, feud, human sacrifice, torture, genocide, slavery, murder, infanticide and so on.

Humans are also longer-lived, healthier and safer from the natural world. This is not an accident of history or nature. Humans have become more reasonable and, perhaps, more altruistic; the most powerful states have finally learned how to increase the physical well-being of humans; undeveloped societies will inevitably follow.

John Gray is a British political philosopher, a great contrarian and also a prolific author for general readers. Writing in *The Guardian*, Gray condemns Pinker's optimism as a modern articulation of the Enlightenment's idealistic worship of Reason as the conqueror of Unreason, just dressed up in the modern vestments of statistics and social science.

By DICK MEYER

Scripps Washington Bureau

Dick Meyer is Chief Washington Correspondent for the Scripps Washington Bureau and DecodeDC (www.newsnet5.com/decodedc). Readers may send him email at dick.meyer@scripps.com.



The optimists' believe that reason, science and technology cannot be corrupted and will inevitably triumph as a secular religion. "The childish simplicity of this way of thinking is reminiscent of Christians who ask how a religion of love could possibly be involved in the Inquisition," Gray writes.

For Gray, the ancient view is truer. There is no straight line of progress, only cycles; "advances in ethics and politics are erratic, discontinuous and easily lost" and "civilization remains inherently fragile and regularly succumbs to barbarism."

Measuring the history of human violence in statistics is absurd, Gray says. Human sacrifices, cannibalism and superpower wars may be down, but mass imprisonment, religious crusades and the spread of weapons of mass destruction are up. One launched nuclear warhead and the optimistic view will go up in a mushroom cloud.

"Gray is not just wrong but howlingly, flat-earth, couldn't-be-more-wrong wrong," Pinker writes in response. "The numbers show that after millennia of near-universal poverty and despotism, a steadily growing proportion of humankind is surviving infancy and childbirth, going to school, voting in democracies, living free of disease, enjoying the necessities of modern life and surviving to old age."

Where do you stand? With Pinker or with Gray?

Why Roberts got it right

The Supreme Court's decision this week in *King v. Burwell* is a huge win for supporters of the Affordable Care Act. It's also a huge win for common sense in statutory interpretation.

President Barack Obama's signature law invited the states to establish exchanges through which their residents could buy health insurance and, if eligible, access subsidies. In the end, however, only 16 opted to do so. The other 34 states chose to rely on Healthcare.gov, the federally run exchange created on their behalf.

In a highly technical provision, the law sets out a formula for the size of the subsidy, with reference to the cost of a health plan bought through "an Exchange established by the State."

The plaintiffs, eager to dismantle the Affordable Care Act, seized on this language to argue that subsidies weren't available to residents of the 34 states that failed to establish their own exchanges. The exchanges in those states weren't "established by the State," they said — so no subsidies.

Why would Congress have wanted to withhold subsidies in states that failed to establish their own exchanges? That's a hard question to answer, given that the whole point of the statute was to expand access to health insurance. But the plaintiffs concocted a story. Maybe Congress really liked state exchanges, they said, and wanted to put pressure on states to set them up. After all, few, if any, states would refuse to create an exchange if it meant the loss of hundreds of millions of dollars to their residents.

The plaintiffs' position has always reminded me of an old Amelia Bedelia story. When the literal-minded but bighearted housekeeper is told by her employer to weed the garden, she decides to plant a big row of really big weeds. "She said to weed the garden," insists Amelia Bedelia, "not unweed it."

When asked why anyone would want more weeds, Amelia Bedelia has to stop and think. "Maybe vegetables get hot just like people," she says. "They need big weeds to shade them."

Writing for a six-justice majority, Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. recognized that the plaintiffs' attempt to explain why Congress would withhold subsidies for residents of some states was every bit as "implausible"—his word—as Amelia Bedelia's notion that vegetables need shade. In his view, other provisions of the statute demonstrated that Congress meant subsidies to be available nationwide.

The chief justice pointed out, for example, that insurers are required to sell insurance to all comers, no matter how sick. That's true in every state, not just the states that set up their own exchanges. As the chief justice recognized, however, the combination of this anti-discrimination rule and the loss of subsidies would wreak havoc on the federal exchanges.

The subsidies are substantial, averaging \$3,264 a year. Healthy people who couldn't afford to pay the full sticker price for insurance would drop their coverage, leaving sicker people behind. Insurers would then have to increase their prices to cover the health care costs of those sick people, pushing still more healthy people

mental is about a foot shorter) We developed a relationship based on trust, respect, and in the end admiration, especially when we accomplished which many deemed impossible—an end to the decades long costly lawsuit against our city and county. My staff did yeoman work in helping me put a plan in place to commit and transform Honolulu into the 21st century with respect to its sewage and wastewater treatment. Through it all I found Blumenthal to be diligent, honest, and a person of his word. He is also the "real deal."

The point of all of this is to say to all island government officials and agencies, who have to deal with the EPA and DOI, take advantage of these two public servants while they are serving in their capacities. No one is perfect and some issues will be more challenging than others so you need to do your part and be patient and creative with them in the process. Bottom line is given the importance of climate change and the accompanying plethora of environmental issues—take Jared Blumenthal and Esther Kia'aina at their word and work with them to create a better quality of life for generations to come.

By NICHOLAS BAGLEY

Los Angeles Times

Nicholas Bagley is an assistant professor of law at the University of Michigan. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



to shed coverage.

In other words, the chief justice wrote, the loss of subsidies would "destabilize the individual insurance market in any State with a Federal exchange, and likely create the very 'death spirals' that Congress designed the Act to avoid."

The chief justice brushed aside the plaintiffs' contention that Congress meant to threaten the destabilization of state insurance markets to force the states to create exchanges. To the contrary, the law specifically anticipated that some states would decline to set up exchanges by providing for a federally run exchange.

Why read the statute to punish laggard states? As the chief justice wrote, "Congress passed the Affordable Care Act to improve health insurance markets, not to destroy them."

In a heated dissent, Justice Antonin Scalia took issue with the majority's willingness to look beyond literal meaning, arguing that the decision "rewrites" the law "under the pretense of interpreting it."

"Words no longer have meaning," Scalia wrote, "if an Exchange that is not established by a State is 'established by the State.'"

That sounds snappy, but Scalia is wrong. He's the Amelia Bedelia of the Supreme Court, who would transform statutory interpretation into a game of gotcha, where slipshod drafting is an excuse to ignore persuasive clues about what Congress meant to communicate.

Words do still have meaning. It's just that reading the law as a whole—keeping in mind what it aims to accomplish and how it goes about accomplishing it—is the right way to figure out what those words mean, not blinkered literalism.

Anyone who knows anything about gardening knows that you don't plant weeds to help vegetables. And anyone who knows anything about how the Affordable Care Act works knows that Congress didn't intend it to devastate health-insurance markets.

As the chief justice rightly appreciated, the broader statutory context thus confirmed that Congress could not have meant what, taken out of context, it seems to have said. That's not rewriting the law. That's reading it.

MARIANAS MATTERS

From Page 10

him. Why? Because Honolulu was under a consent degree and very much on the radar screen for its failure to go to secondary treatment of its wastewater. We were being sued by a who's who of environmental stakeholders led by the EPA that had a contentious lawsuit against the nation's 13th largest city. Believe you me, it was a challenge I wished I hadn't inherited under my watch. However, my DNA is such that I felt Honolulu could no longer afford to continue to kick this problem down the road and we needed to reach a reasonable settlement with EPA, one of the strictest and toughest government agencies.

Fortunately for me, Blumenthal, who was new to his job, shared my opinion and was eager to reach a fair and doable settlement, something his predecessors like mine could not do. What ensued was a series of shuttle diplomacies between Honolulu and San Francisco where we met eyeball to eyeball across the table from each other (we sat most of the time since I stand 6'7" and Blu-

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY

Partly sunny with isolated showers.
Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲87° ▼77°

WEDNESDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲87° ▼77°

THURSDAY

Partly sunny with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼77°

FRIDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.

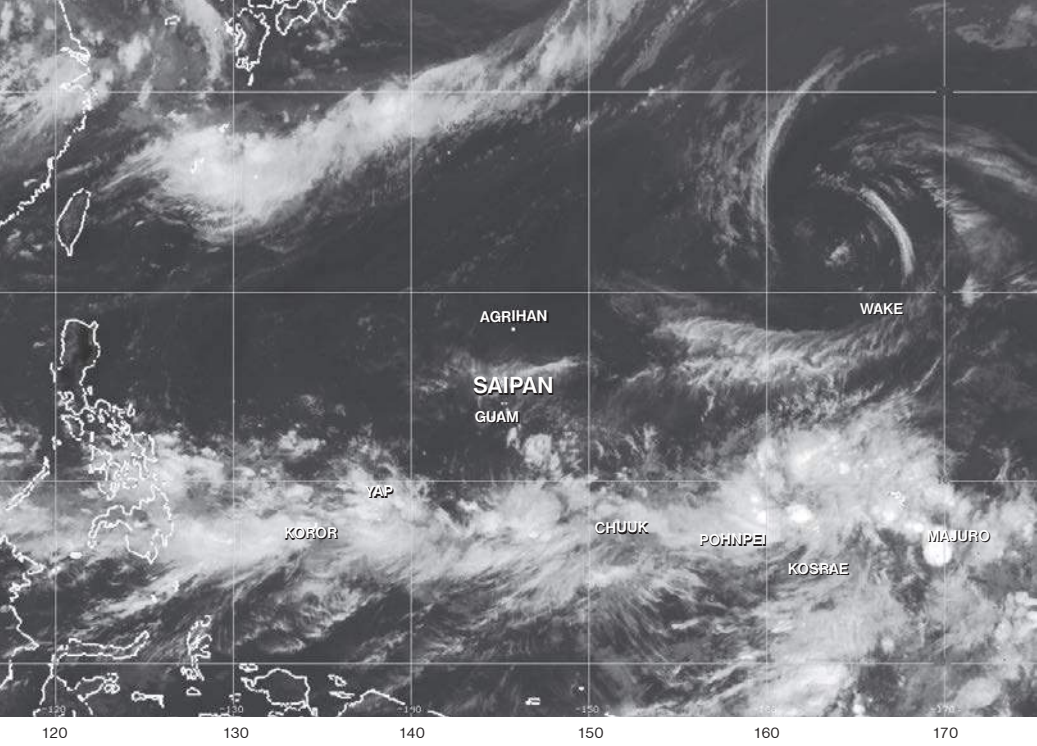
▲87° ▼77°

SATURDAY

Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.

▲86° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An active monsoon trough extends eastward from a circulation near 10N130E through a second circulation centered south of Guam near 8N146E then through a third circulation northeast of Pohnpei at 8N161E turning southeastward through a fourth circulation southeast of Majuro at 4N177E then across 5N180. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from across Koror, Yap and Chuuk to Pohnpei are within 180 miles of a line from 8N130E to 6N148E to 8N160E and across Kosrae state and the western Marshall Islands between 12N and the equator from 160E to 170E and across Majuro and Tarawa between 9N and the equator from 170E to 180.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼81
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼52
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼63
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲90	▼83
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼75
London	Sunny	▲84	▼67
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼68
Manila	Thundershowers	▲92	▼77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼42
Miami	Thundershowers	▲92	▼78
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼68
Osaka	Showers	▲79	▼69
Paris	Sunny	▲92	▼68
Pusan	Rain	▲72	▼66
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼71
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼62
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼53
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼65
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲77	▼68
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼69

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
12:56 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
6:17 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
1:41 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.2 Feet
8:35 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:52 AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	4:09 PM	3:07 AM
Tuesday	5:04 PM	3:56 AM
Wednesday	5:59 PM	4:48 AM
Thursday	6:55 PM	5:44 AM
Friday	7:50 PM	6:42 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 28, 2015							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3	UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:15pm	3:55pm	6, 7 via Rota	UA5039	12:55pm	1:45pm	6, 7
UA5078	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 5	UA5038	1:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5038	3:05pm	3:55pm	2, 4	UA5077	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 5
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5	UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5	UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5039	2:15pm	2:50pm	6, 7	UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5039	3:20pm	3:55pm	6, 7	UA5038	2:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)				PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT	DL298	4:30am	2:55pm	3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 6	DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
DL297	4:30pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	10:55am	4:25pm	3, 5, 6
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 5, 6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	3, 4	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
7C3401	5:25pm	9:10pm	3, 5, 6				
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	DL276/288	9:30am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5070/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM	UA184/5039	10:25pm	1:45pm+1	6 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:35pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:35pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:15pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:25pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:05pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM	UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:05pm	8:50pm	5 via GUM	UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:10pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:05pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM	UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:05pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM	UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5071	11:30pm	1:45pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM	UA180/5039	9:55pm	1:45pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM	UA180/5077	9:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA5039/179	2:15pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM	UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:05pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM				

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily			
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily			
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily			
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily			
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily			
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily			
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily			
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily			
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily						

ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat



DAVID M. APATANG
Mayor of Saipan

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Municipality of Saipan
Office of the Mayor
2015 Liberation Day Committee



CHRISTOPHER LEON GUERRERO
2015 Liberation Day Chairman

2015 CNMI Talent Fest

\$ 10,000.00

Come and show your talent !
We can't wait to see it !

Deadline for applications: July 8, 2015

An all out invitation for THE Battle of
Island Talents

From Bands, Solo Artists, Cultural Dancers,
Hip Hop, & Contemporary Performing Arts

With 10 thousand dollars in prizes and
consolation prizes for all

To acquire application form:

E-mail: libfestcnmi@gmail.com gordon@pdisaipan.com

Facebook: 2015 Liberation Day Festival

Room 204, Mariana Business Plaza, Susupe, (670) 234-7942

NMC gets clean audit report for 8th straight year

For the eighth consecutive year, the Northern Marianas College has received a favorable audit opinion—an unqualified opinion—on its financial statements. The college has also received for the second time an unqualified auditor's opinion on its internal control and compliance report.

An unqualified opinion means that the financial statements present fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of the Northern Marianas College as of Sept. 30,

2014, and conform with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

According to NMC chief financial officer Tracy Guerrero, the college's independently prepared audit identified no material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, or material non-compliance with the College's financial statements.

She also reported that the internal control and compliance report that was prepared by the auditing firm contained

only three findings and no material weaknesses. The audit findings centered around NMC's travel procedures.

According to Guerrero, the college has already taken corrective action to resolve these findings. The correction was partially completed on March 15, 2015 with the implementation of the college's new travel procedures. Additional

revisions to the College's procedures will be completed in order to further strengthen the new travel procedures.

Guerrero also added the single audit finding identified in last year's audit has been fully resolved.

"That the institution received its eighth consecutive, clean bill of fiscal health demonstrates the college's continued commitment to the efficient and

prudent management of its resources," said NMC president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart.

A copy of NMC's financial audit, prepared by Burger Comer Magliari (BCM), has been transmitted to the Office of the Public Auditor.

"We commend the diligent staff at the Finance Department, as well as other employees at the College, for working to ensure that our finances are well-managed," added president Hart.

"The board is extremely

pleased with the hard work of the college's staff and management in ensuring that the college continues to remain fiscally responsible, efficient, and accountable to its students, to government leaders, and to the community," said Juan Lizama, chairman of the NMC Board of Regents. (NMC)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CNMI Museum board meeting scheduled

The CNMI Museum of History and Culture will be holding a regular meeting of its Board of Governors on Thursday, June 2, at 9am at the NMI Humanities Council Conference Room. The agenda will include the election of officers, a continuation of the review of the museum work plan, and preparations for the development of a strategic plan. A finalized agenda will be available prior to and at the meeting.

This meeting is open to the public. You may contact Robert Hunter at the CNMI Museum, 664-2160 for more information about the meeting. (PR)

Lower Base Transfer Station, Marpi Landfill closed on July 4

The Lower Base Transfer Station and the Marpi Landfill facilities will be closed all day on Saturday, July 4, 2015, in observance of Independence Day. Regular schedule will resume on Monday, July 6, 2015, from 7:30am to 11:30am and 12:30pm to 4pm. (PR)

Tinian scholarship office relocates to NMC Campus

The Tinian Municipal Scholarship Office has been relocated to the Tinian Northern Marianas College Campus (Room E) as of June 17, 2015.

The relocation is part of the office's efforts to improve public service effectively and efficiently. With this relocation, all students will also have the opportunity to connect with NMC partners within the same facility. Office staff, as well as the Tinian NMC staff, are ready to assist students in working toward furthering their educational goals.

For further inquiries, contact the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Office at 433-2200/0649 or email tinianscholarship@gmail.com. The office's operating hours is from 7:30am to 4:30pm on weekdays. (PR)

KHS, TES sets report card distribution

Kagman High School will distribute its students' report card beginning on July 1 at the school's main office from 9am to 4:30pm. Report card distribution begins July 30 at Tanapag Elementary School from 9am to 12pm. For more information, call the KHS main office at 237-3840. (PR)

Joeten Daidai Foundation awards \$5K in scholarships

The Joeten Daidai Foundation awarded \$5,000 worth of scholarships to five CNMI high school graduates.

Joeten Daidai Foundation scholarship recipients were randomly chosen by the six board of trustees. The awardees were selected based on their GPA's, academic excellence, extracurricular activities, and community involvement.

They were also asked to write an essay describing challenges they would encounter as an incoming freshman in college. Those recipients are Joann Bandales of Saipan Southern High School, Maricar Valdez of Marianas High School, Peter Babauta of Mount Carmel School, Pearl Cataluna of Marianas Baptist Academy, and Noemi Caacbay of Marianas High School. Each of the five recipients were presented a check worth \$1,000 and gift bags from Joeten. The check presentation was held at the Joeten Susupe executive conference room.

The Joeten Daidai Foundation began from a vision of the late Jose "Joeten" C. Tenorio and his wife Soledad "Daidai" T. Tenorio with the foundation's mission of contributing to educational, religious, and charitable purposes. It was their way of continuously giving back to the community. The foundation would not be possible without the unending support of the Joeten affiliates and all their diligent employees as well as many other gracious contributors. (PR)



The Joeten Daidai Foundation board of trustees poses with recipients of the foundation's annual scholarships at the Joeten Susupe executive conference room.

Jehovah's Witnesses to hold 'Imitate Jesus!' convention

Jehovah's Witnesses will soon hold their annual convention at the Marianas High School Gym. They extend an open invitation for all to attend. The theme of this year's program is "Imitate Jesus!"

Mark L. Hollingshead, a convention spokesman, states: "Je-

sus, the founder of Christianity, is widely considered as one of the most influential and significant men who ever lived. As Christians, a core belief of Jehovah's Witnesses is that Jesus lived his life as a model for us to follow. The "Imitate Jesus!" convention will ex-

amine Jesus' life, as outlined in the Bible, and emphasize how all—regardless of their background, lifestyle, or religion—can benefit in practical ways from his example and teachings. A highlight of the program will be the keynote address on Friday morning,

entitled "Concealed in Him Are All the Treasures of Wisdom."

Starting this weekend, and continuing for the next three weeks, Jehovah's Witnesses will extend personal invitations to everyone from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to attend the convention. Locally, here on Saipan both of the two congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses will help distribute printed invitations to the convention. There is no admission fee. Conventions of Jehovah's Witnesses are supported entirely by voluntary donations.

This three-day event to be held in Saipan will begin on July 24, at 9:20am. An estimated 400 will come to Saipan for the Bible-based programs. Locally the entire program will be presented in English and ASL or American Sign Language. Additionally on Sunday the program will be given in Chinese. Jehovah's Witnesses in Micronesia are organizing 12 conventions—in 10 languages—on 9 different islands. Worldwide, there are over 8,000,000 Witnesses in more than 115,000 congregations. (PR)

Search concludes for 2 missing lobster divers near Anao Point

SANTA RITA, Guam—The search for two missing lobster divers in the vicinity of Anao Point has concluded after they were safely located yesterday afternoon.

During the morning of June 29, 2015, watch standers at U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam's Rescue Sub-Center received a report regarding two males that had not returned from their dive. The two missing individuals are reportedly a 19-year-old male and a 52-year-old male who went lobster diving Sunday at Anao Point.

Coast Guard Sector Guam coordinated the search efforts of multiple resources to include: a helicopter from U.S. Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron Two-Five, a rescue boat from Guam Fire Rescue, and a rescue boat from Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor.

During the early afternoon of June 29, 2015, the two missing divers were safely located at the bottom of the hiking trail in the area of Anao Point. No injuries were reported. All responding agencies have been stood down from the response. (USCG)



MEETING WITH CONSULTANTS

From left, Dentons US LLC's Nicolas Yosh and Mathew Adams, Northern Islands Mayor Jerome Aldan, HB Cabrera & Associates president Herman Cabrera, Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Antonia M. Tudela, Dentons' Jim Keany, socio-economic consultant Bill Torres, Lt. Governor's special assistant Mathew DL Guerrero, and lawyer Wes Bogan pose for a group photo following a meeting to discuss the U.S. military's proposed live-fire training in Pagan. Dentons is currently reviewing the draft environmental impact statement submitted by the U.S. Department of Defense.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bordallo welcomes DOI's Jewell visit to Guam

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo looks forward to meeting with Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell during her scheduled visit to Guam. The Department of the Interior announced the visit as part of the secretary's trip to Vietnam and China.



Bordallo

"I look forward to welcoming Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to Guam during her visit to the Asia-Pacific region," said Bordallo. "Secretary Jewell is making an important trip to Vietnam and China to advance our national interests, and I'm

glad she's including Guam in her trip to Asia. Secretary Jewell has been a strong advocate for Guam and the other U.S. territories, and she recognizes the important role Guam

plays in the security and economic stability of the Asia-Pacific region."

Bordallo said she hopes that Jewell's visit will give her a better understanding of the issues important to the island and Guam's neighbors in the Freely Associated States.

"I am glad that she is visiting the War in the Pacific National

Historical Park so that she may have a deeper appreciation of the occupation and liberation of Guam and the wartime experiences of the Chamorro people. Her visit also highlights the upcoming 100th anniversary of the national park system and the immense national treasures that our national parks are to the American people. In China, her promotion of U.S. destinations for visitors from China complements Guam's efforts to develop China as a visitor market."

Bordallo added that she's pleased that Jewell is taking the

time to become better informed about the military realignment to the Asia Pacific region and the pivotal role that Guam plays in this initiative.

"She is a strong advocate for the preservation of our natural resources and the importance of addressing climate change issues on Guam and in our region. I look forward to her meetings with local leaders and our community so that we can all work more collaboratively on issues important to Guam and our nation," she said. (PR)

Underwood meets with education officials in DC

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Senator Nerissa Bretania Underwood, Ph.D. (D), met with a number of officials in Washington, D.C. on June 18 and 19, regarding important educational matters for the Guam Department of Education (GDOE). The central issue is the continuing use of a "third party fiduciary agent" and "high risk status" for the GDOE. The special conditions as a "high risk grantee" requires oversight by a private party acceptable to the US Department of Education (USDE) and costs Guam approximately \$3 million a year in

local funds.

On June 18, Underwood met with Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo to discuss this issue and continuing funding opportunities for GDOE as well as the Guam Community College and University of Guam. She met with Superintendent Jon Fernandez, representatives of Alvarez and Marsal (third party fiduciary agent) to discuss the transition plan for Guam to move from high-risk status. Underwood also met with Reading is Fundamental (RIF) officials

to discuss assistance for Guam schools especially with literacy development over long vacation periods. This is an initiative she would like to pursue with GDOE and the entire Guam community to include agencies other than GDOE, non-profit organizations and faith-based entities.

On June 19, Underwood met with USDE official Phil Maestri, the USDE high-risk management team, Superintendent Fernandez and representatives of Alvarez and Marsal. Senator Underwood said the conversa-

tion was "candid and constructive." She stressed the need for "benchmarks" to establish progress to move off of high-risk status while achieving high standards for both federal and local funds. "GDOE has made significant progress in recent years and we want to make sure that progress continues in a clear process with a pathway to sustainable accountability standards for all funds."

Underwood made this trip at her own expense. For more information, contact the senator at 671-687-1370. (PR)

Bordallo appointed to conference committee for FY2016 NDAA

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo last week was appointed to the Conference Committee on the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2016. The Conference Committee is made up for members from the House and Senate charged with negotiating an agreement that can be submitted to both chambers.

In addition to Congresswoman Bordallo, conferees from the House are: Reps. Thornberry, Forbes, Miller (FL), Wilson (SC), LoBiondo, Bishop (UT), Turner, Kline, Rogers (AL), Shuster, Conaway, Lamborn, Wittman, Hunter, Hartzler, Heck (NV), Wenstrup, Stefanik, Smith (WA), Sanchez, Loretta, Davis (CA), Langevin, Larsen (WA), Cooper, Bordallo, Courtney, Tsongas, Garamendi, John-

son (GA), Speier, Castro (TX), and Duckworth.

"I look forward working with my House and Senate colleagues to reconcile differences in our respective chambers' defense bills," said Congresswoman Bordallo. "Congress has an obligation to provide our servicemembers with the resources and authorities they need to successfully complete their missions around the world. I look forward to working with my fellow conferees to ensure that we continue the progress that we have made on the Asia-Pacific rebalance and move forward with the realignment of Marines to Guam. These programs are critical to our national security and maintaining a strong, forward presence the Asia-Pacific region." (PR)

Center of excellence for renewable energy, energy efficiency takes shape

SUVA, Fiji—The Pacific Islands will soon have a regional center of excellence in renewable energy and energy efficiency to support efforts to accelerate the adoption of feasible renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies across the region.

The hosting arrangement for the center is being discussed this week at the Vienna Energy Forum being held by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) in Austria from 18 to 20 June.

At the international forum, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) will provide an update on behalf of the Pacific delegation on progress to establish the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.

In April 2014, Pacific Ministers for Energy and Transport agreed to establish the center—a first for the Pacific—that will become part of UNIDO's network of regional Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) Centres of Excellence, along with centers for the Caribbean Community, Economic Community of West African States, the Southern African Development Community, and the East African Community.

Renewable energy currently represents less than 10 per

cent of total energy use in the 22 Pacific Island countries and territories.

While Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Samoa are leading the way with large-scale hydropower projects, there is enormous potential to expand the deployment of other renewable energy options such as solar, wind, geothermal and ocean-based energy sources.

The Pacific center will work toward the creation of an enabling environment for regional renewable energy and energy efficiency markets by mitigating existing barriers.

In particular it will focus on building capacity, knowledge management and awareness in the region, as well as on business and investment promotion.

The Pacific center is a follow-up to collaboration between SPC and UNIDO on a strategic program for scaling up renewable energy markets in targeted Small Island Developing States in the Pacific.

The Vienna Energy Forum offers the opportunity to present the Network of Sustainable Energy Centres for Small Island Developing States to a wider audience, including identified funding sources. SPC will be represented by its Deputy Director, Energy, Solomone Fifita. (SPC)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ROTA FUND DRIVE

Guam Gov. Edward Calvo's office recently raised funds through a "Boot Drive" for Rota victims of Typhoon Dolphin. BankPacific team members helped with the fund-raising drive by donating to Calvo's campaign. In photo are Governor's Office's Cecile Suda and Evelyn Claros join bank employees Leah Vilante, Vayda Aldan, Patrice Apiag, Jesse Sanchez, and Tanya Cruz in posing for a group photo.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BRIDGE CAPITAL DONATION

Bridge Capital, LLC recently made a \$1,000 donation to 2015 Royal Court Liberation candidate Stephanie Camacho, left. Also in photo are, from left, Bridge Capital, LLC chief of operations Jody R. Jordahl and Camacho's mother Katherine Casil.

Business

Greece imposes capital controls, banks to remain shut

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greece's five-year financial crisis took its most dramatic turn yet, with the cabinet deciding after an 8-hour session that Greek banks would remain shut for six business days and restrictions would be imposed on cash withdrawals.

The Athens Stock Exchange would also not open Monday, financial sector officials confirmed.

The moves were meant to staunch the flow of money out of Greek banks and spur the country's creditors to offer concessions before a bailout

program expires Tuesday. The accelerating crisis has thrown into question Greece's financial future and continued membership in the 19-nation shared euro currency—and even the European Union.

For the past two days, Greeks have been rushing to ATMs to withdraw money across the country following Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras' sudden weekend decision to call a referendum on creditor proposals for Greek reforms in return for vital bailout funds.

A decree published early Monday in the official Govern-

ment Gazette stipulates banks will not open Monday morning and would remain closed through Monday, July 6. The finance minister could decide to shorten or extend that period.

Withdrawals from ATMs will be capped at 60 euros (\$66) daily. The decree said ATMs would be working at the latest 12 hours from its publication, meaning cash machines should open by early afternoon.

Web banking transactions would be mostly free, allowing Greeks to pay bills online. However, they cannot move money to accounts abroad.

protests demanding authorities arrest Uber drivers and seize their cars. Some vowed to "hunt down" Uber vehicles and in one case cabbies bashed doors and a windshield with baseball bats while a terrified client sat inside. A large taxi union has vowed not to obey cab regulations if Uber isn't required to do the same.

Legal approval would amount to recognition that despite complaints of unfair competition, app-based services like Uber and the smaller Cabify have become widely popular here, in part because much old-school cab service is terrible.

man Rights Commission has weighed in favoring the service.

While Uber has faced legal hurdles that forced it off the road in some places, officials have signaled it may be allowed to remain in this megalopolis of 20 million-plus inhabitants.

"Generally speaking, the more options consumers have, the better off they are," competition commission chairwoman Alejandra Palacios Prieto told The Associated Press. "They will receive better services and pay better prices for those services."

That's not to say it hasn't been a bumpy road.

Licensed cabbies have staged

Officials hint at possible win for Uber in Mexico City

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Times are tough for Uber in many parts of the world, from a recent California ruling that its drivers cannot be classified as contractors to a Paris taxi protest that became a riot and led France's president to promise a crackdown.

But the smartphone-based ridesharing app may soon get some good news in Mexico City.

Ahead of a city government decision on its future, Uber recently got a ringing, though nonbinding, endorsement from the influential Federal Commission on Economic Competition. Even Mexico City's Hu-

Make sure to get the reference you're looking for

Q : For six years, I worked in a small law office with a woman who clearly did not like me at all. "Gladys" was the attorney's secretary, and I was a paralegal. Three years ago, I left the office on good terms after receiving an offer from a much larger firm.

My new job worked out well until the firm lost its largest client. I was laid off, along with many other employees, and given a glowing reference letter. I was also provided with outplacement services.

When the outplacement counselor called my former employer for a reference, Gladys answered the phone. She said the attorney was unavailable and offered to answer any questions. She described me as a "legal assistant," not a paralegal, and apparently had a rather negative attitude.

Now I'm concerned about what Gladys may say to potential employers. I know the attorney would give me a favorable reference, but she might not allow anyone to talk with him. I have considered calling him myself, but I'm not sure what to say.

A: The good news is that interviewers almost always give the greatest weight to your most recent work experience. Some may not even bother to contact

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE

Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of *Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*.



your previous employer. However, anyone who does check needs accurate information, so circumventing Gladys would be a wise move.

Explain to the attorney that you would appreciate a personal reference because he is so familiar with your work. If he will agree to write a letter, that may satisfy some employers and reduce the number of inquiries. For phone calls, see if he can provide a direct number that goes to voice mail.

You might mention that Gladys was confused about your position and request that "paralegal" be specifically stated in the reference letter. But discussing her crabby personality could risk retaliation, so there's nothing to be gained by bringing that up.

Q: While I was out sick, my manager called to see if I would be available for my on-call shift that weekend. Since my doctor's note specified returning to work on Monday, I told her no. The next day, she called to say that she would

handle Saturday herself and that a co-worker had offered to cover Sunday.

She then indicated that I would be expected to take my co-worker's shift the following Saturday as a "courtesy." I think this was completely bogus and extremely rude. How can my boss dictate what I should do with my weekend?

A: Let me get this straight. Because you were sick, a colleague volunteered to handle your Sunday shift, and now you're angry about having to repay him. Returning such a favor is a common practice, so I find your reaction completely baffling.

Your irritation with your boss is also puzzling, given that she's covering one day herself. Presumably, you won't even have to make that one up. Not knowing your company's policy on shift coverage, I can't say whether this decision was appropriate. But I can say that your attitude seems more than a little self-centered.

Nation

Troopers hunting escapees scrambled to save 1 they captured

MALONE, N.Y. (AP)—Some of the same state troopers who spent three weeks hunting down two escaped killers found themselves scrambling to get the lone survivor to a hospital, hoping to make him well enough to share the tale of how the pair managed to escape and stay on the run for so long.

David Sweat was shot and captured Sunday afternoon when a single state police sergeant spotted a suspicious man walking on a rural road in Constable, near the Canadian border. He was in critical condition at an Albany hospital Sunday night.

His capture came two days after his fellow escapee, Richard Matt, was killed in a confrontation with law enforcement while holding a shotgun. Sweat was unarmed when he was shot twice by Sgt. Jay Cook as the fugitive ran for a tree line.

The men had been on the loose since June 6, when they cut their way out of a maximum-security prison about 30 miles away using power tools. Two prison workers have been



AP
Police stand over David Sweat after he was shot and captured near the Canadian border Sunday, June 28, 2015, in Constable, N.Y.

charged with helping them.

Clinton correction officer Gene Palmer, charged with promoting prison contraband, tampering with physical evidence and official misconduct, is due in court Monday. His attorney has said he will plead not guilty.

Officials said Palmer gave the two prisoners frozen hamburger meat that a prison tailoring shop instructor had used to hide the tools she smuggled to Sweat and Matt. Palmer's attorney said he had no knowledge that the meat contained

hacksaw blades, a bit and a screwdriver.

Prosecutors said the tailor shop worker, Joyce Mitchell, got close to the men while working with them and had agreed to be their getaway driver but backed out because she felt guilty for participating in the escape. Authorities also said Mitchell had discussed killing her husband as part of the plot.

Mitchell pleaded not guilty June 15 to charges including felony promoting prison contraband.

Supreme Court ruling makes pride parades historic, jubilant

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Hundreds of thousands of people on Sunday packed gay pride events from Chicago to New York City, Seattle to San Francisco, with overall attendance expected in the millions for what amounted to a celebration of a freshly endorsed right to marry.

In San Francisco, a parade that at times resembled a rainbow-colored dance party snaked through downtown. Cheerleaders, dancers and proud families of lesbians and gays swooped up Market Street as spectators flocked 10 to 15 people deep along both sides.

There were "Hooray for Gay" and "Love Won" signs.

SpaceX rocket destroyed on way to space station, cargo lost

By MARCIA DUNN
AP AEROSPACE WRITER

An unmanned SpaceX rocket carrying supplies to the International Space Station broke apart Sunday shortly after lift-off. It was a severe blow to NASA, the third cargo mission to fail in eight months.

The accident happened about 2 1/2 minutes into the flight from Cape Canaveral, Florida. A billowing white cloud emerged in the sky, growing bigger and bigger, then fiery plumes shot out. Pieces of the rocket could be seen falling into the Atlantic like a fireworks display gone wrong.

There were rainbow flags and knee socks, umbrellas and tutus.

SF Pride Board President Gary Virginia said the exuberance was amplified given last week's U.S. Supreme Court ruling that same-sex couples can wed in all 50 states. Still, he said more needs to be done in housing and job discrimination in the United States and for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people around the world.

"Today, we celebrate," Virginia said. "Tomorrow, we get back to work."

San Francisco organizers put the number of marchers at 26,000, while in New York City, organizers expected

about 22,000 people.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo used his newly granted powers to officiate at the wedding ceremony of a same-sex couple in Manhattan. It was held in front of the Stonewall Inn, where in 1969 gay bar patrons stood up to a police raid, launching the modern gay rights movement.

Nikita Lowery, a 28-year-old resident of Chicago, said she decided to attend that city's parade for the first time this year. "I feel like it's a true celebration now," she said.

At gay pride parades in Paris and other cities outside the U.S. on Saturday, the Supreme Court's ruling was hailed by many as a watershed.

More than 5,200 pounds of space station cargo were on board, including the first docking port designed for future commercial crew capsules, a new spacesuit and a water filtration system.

NASA officials said they have enough supplies for the three-person crew on board the station to last till October and still plan to send three more crewmembers up in a late July launch. NASA likes to have a six-month cushion of food and water, but is now down to four months.

"We're good from a food and water standpoint," NASA's top spaceflight official,

William Gerstenmaier said at a press conference.

This puts added pressure on another resupply launch scheduled for Friday by Russia, its first attempt since losing a supply capsule in April.

SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket shattered while traveling at 2,900 mph, about 27 miles up. Everything seemed to be going well until the rocket went supersonic.

"We appear to have had a launch vehicle failure," announced NASA commentator George Diller.

Data stopped flowing from the Falcon 9 rocket around 2 minutes and 19 seconds, he said.

Asia

Cat stationmaster Tama mourned in Japan, elevated as a goddess

TOKYO (AP)—Tama the stationmaster, Japan's feline star of a struggling local railway, was mourned by company officials and fans and elevated into a goddess at a funeral Sunday.

The calico cat was appointed stationmaster at the Kishi station in western Japan in 2007. Donning her custom-made stationmaster's cap, Tama quietly sat at the ticket gate welcoming and seeing off passengers. The cat quickly attracted tourists and became world-famous, contributing to the railway company and local economy.

Tama, who had turned 16 in April, died of a heart failure on June 22. During Sunday's Shinto-style funeral at the station where she served, Tama became a goddess. The Shinto religion, indigenous to Japan and practiced by many Japanese, has a variety of gods including animals.

In one of several portraits decorating the altar, Tama posed in a stationmaster's hat and a dark blue cape. Sake, as well as watermelon, apples, cabbage and other fruits and vegetables



A girl lays bouquets of flowers at an altar especially set up for a funeral of Tama, a cat stationmaster, in Kinokawa City, Wakayama Prefecture, western Japan, Sunday, June 28, 2015.

were presented to the cat. A stand outside the station was heaped with bouquets, canned tuna and other gifts left by thousands of Tama fans who came to pray from around the country.

Wakayama Electric Railway President Mitsunobu Kojima thanked the cat for her achievement, and said Tama will be enshrined at a nearby cat shrine in August.

Before Tama's arrival, the lo-

cal Kishigawa Line was near-bankrupt; and the station was unmanned as it had lost its last staff.

Kojima said appointing Tama as stationmaster was initially an excuse to keep the cat at the station.

"But she was really doing her job," he said. The rest was a miracle, and his company's success story also gave hope for dozens of other struggling tiny local train lines, he said.

Indonesian army inches back into civilian sphere

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Nearly two decades after the fall of dictator Suharto forced Indonesia's military out of politics, the army is inching back into civilian roles, risking a setback for democracy in this Southeast Asian nation and perhaps even for the turbulent region.

The vast Indonesian archipelago is one of the world's most-populous democracies and also among the youngest. Many Indonesians welcomed the army's retreat from politics after Suharto's often brutal 32-year rule was ended by mass protests in

1998. But years later, analysts and former generals say the military's national defense role is still not fully accepted among officers or the rank-and-file.

Now, the army is creeping into areas beyond defense as inexperienced President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo relies on it to strengthen his hand against the powerful and unruly police and political parties allied to former President Megawati Sukarnoputri.

Megawati, the daughter of Indonesia's first president, Sukarno, positioned herself as the

power behind Jokowi's presidency by letting her party back him during last year's election.

The army has signed agreements with government ministries and state companies that involve it in areas such as providing security for airports, bus stations and railways and helping farmers increase their crops. Some officials have called for army involvement in Indonesia's anticorruption agency to counter attempts by police and their political allies to neuter an institution that is effective and feared.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Hundreds still in hospital after fire at Taiwan music party

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—More than 400 people, many of them seriously burned, remained in hospitals Sunday after a fire spread into a crowd of spectators at a music party at a Taiwan water park, authorities said. The fire late Saturday was sparked by an accidental explosion of a colored theatrical powder thrown from the stage in front of about 1,000 people, the local fire agency and media said. The powder for the one-time event called "Color Play Asia" ignited along the ground, mainly burning people's lower bodies, said Wang Wei-sheng, a liaison with the New Taipei City fire department command center. The exact cause of the fire was still being investigated, but Taiwan Premier Mao Chih-kuo banned public activities that use the colored powder.

Afghan official: IS group present in at least 3 provinces

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan official says the Islamic State group now has a presence in three provinces but that the government is determined to drive it out. Zafar Hashimi, the Afghan president's deputy spokesman, said Sunday that the group—which controls large areas of Iraq and Syria—is active in the eastern Nangarhar, western Farah and southern Helmand provinces. Hashimi says security forces have launched successful operations against the IS group but gave no further details. The Taliban, which have been at war with the government for nearly 14 years and are also active in the three provinces, have warned the IS group to stay out of the country. Both groups want Islamic rule but the Taliban do not recognize the IS group's self-styled caliphate.

Solar Impulse plane departs Japan, headed for Hawaii

TOKYO (AP)—A solar-powered plane attempting to circumnavigate the globe without fuel took off from Japan early Monday after an unscheduled, month-long stop. The Solar Impulse 2 departed around 3 a.m. from an airport in Nagoya in central Japan. The plane with one pilot is attempting a 120-hour flight to Hawaii, the longest leg of its journey so far. The plane requires the right weather conditions, and organizers were withholding an official announcement of the takeoff until they are sure the flight can continue. "A formal communiqué will be issued once Solar Impulse has passed the Point of No Return and that we know that the Pilot André Borschberg is on a safe track to reach Hawaii," the press team said in an email to journalists.

World

Nuke talks to miss target; Iran foreign minister heads home

VIENNA (AP)—A senior U.S. official acknowledged Sunday that Iran nuclear talks will go past their June 30 target date, as Iran's foreign minister prepared to head home for consultations before returning to push for a breakthrough.

Iranian media said Mohammed Javad Zarif's trip was planned in advance. Still, the fact that he was leaving the talks so close to what had been the Tuesday deadline reflected both that the talks had a ways to go and his need to get instructions on how to proceed on issues where the sides remain apart—among them how much access Tehran should give to U.N. experts monitoring his country's compliance to any deal.

The United States insists on more intrusive monitoring than Iran is ready to give. With these and other disputes still unresolved, the likelihood that the Tuesday target deadline for an Iran nuclear

deal could slip was increasingly growing even before the U.S. confirmation. The dispute over access surfaced again Sunday, with Iranian Gen. Masoud Jazayeri saying that any inspection by foreigners of Iran's military centers is prohibited.

He said the attempt by the U.S. and its allies to "obtain Iran's military information for years ... by the pressure of sanctions" will not succeed.

But German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, who joined the talks Friday, said Iran's "nuclear activities, no matter where they take place," must be verifiable.

Officials said they could not speculate on how many days' extension the talks would need. But Zarif told reporters that he planned to come back only on Tuesday, the day the negotiations were originally supposed to end with a deal.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Zarif met in Vienna

for their third encounter since Saturday. The foreign ministers of Britain, France and Germany came—and then went, or planned to leave, in another reflection that the sides were not yet close to a deal.

For weeks, all seven nations at the negotiating table insisted that Tuesday remains the formal deadline for a deal. But with time running out, a senior U.S. official acknowledged that was unrealistic.

"Given the dates, and that we have some work to do ... the parties are planning to remain in Vienna beyond June 30 to continue working," said the official, who demanded anonymity in line with State Department practice.

Asked about the chances for a deal, Federica Mogherini, the European Union's top diplomat, told reporters: "It's going to be tough ... but not impossible." Hammond spoke of "major differences" in the way of a deal.

Tunisia launches nationwide manhunt for attack accomplices

SOUSSE, Tunisia (AP)—The student who massacred holidaymakers on a Tunisian beach and at a swank resort hotel acted alone during the attack but had accomplices who supported him beforehand, an Interior Ministry official said Sunday.

Police were searching nationwide for more suspects after the slaughter of at least 38 people in Sousse on Friday, in Tunisia's deadliest ever such attack. The attacker's father and three roommates were detained and being questioned in the capital, Tunis, Interior Ministry spokesman Mohamed Ali Aroui told The Associated Press.

The attacker has been identified as Seifeddine Rezgui, a 24-year-old graduate of Tunisia's Kairouan University where he had been living with the other students. The attack was claimed by the radical Islamic State group.

"We are sure that others

helped, but did not participate," Aroui said. "They participated indirectly."

Investigators believe the suspected accomplices provided the Kalashnikov assault rifle to Rezgui and helped him get to the scene, Aroui said.

Authorities have yet to suggest a motive for the carnage. A security official close to the investigation said the student frequented an "unofficial" mosque in the Tunisian holy city of Kairouan for the past two years.

The official said a swimmer had found the attacker's cellphone in the Mediterranean. The phone showed the attacker spoke with his father just before his assault, the official said on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak publicly.

Friday's attack on the Imperial Marhaba Hotel shook this North African nation that thrives on tourism and

has struggled since its 2011 revolution to be the one Arab Spring country that succeeds in transitioning from authoritarianism to democracy.

The bloodshed shocked European nations across the Mediterranean worried for the safety of their citizens who populate Tunisian beaches—and about what it may mean for their own countries in an age of globalized terrorism.

British counterterrorism police official Mark Rowley said Sunday that Britain has mobilized more than 600 officers and staff—one of the force's largest counterterrorism deployments in recent years—in response to the attack.

At least 15 Britons were among the 38 killed, the most serious attack on the British since 52 people were killed in attacks targeting London's transport network in July 2005. Three Irish nationals were also among the dead.

Report: Puerto Rico governor believes public debt unpayable

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Puerto Rico's governor believes the U.S. territory's \$72 billion public debt is unpayable, his spokesman confirmed late Sunday, adding another blow to the international financial system already struggling with a possible default by Greece.

Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla's spokesman, Jesus Manuel Ortiz, confirmed that the island's government will seek to defer payments while negotiating with creditors.

He confirmed comments by Padilla that appeared in a report in The New York Times published late Sunday, less than a day before Garcia is scheduled to deliver a public address as legislators debate a \$9.8 billion budget that calls for \$674 million in cuts.

"There is no other option. I would love to have an easier option. This is not politics, this is math," Garcia is quoted as saying in the Times.

The governor recently confirmed that he had considered

having his government seek permission from the U.S. Congress to declare bankruptcy amid a nearly decade-long economic slump. His administration is currently pushing for the right for Puerto Rico's public agencies to file for bankruptcy under Chapter 9. Neither the agencies nor the island's government can file for bankruptcy under current U.S. rules.

Puerto Rico's public agencies owe a large portion of the debt, with the power company alone owing some \$9 billion.



Is inviting qualified U.S Citizens to apply for the following vacant positions

Position: (1) BARTENDER

Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent with minimum 2 years work experience in the preparation of mixed cocktails required. Strong communication and interpersonal skills are essential. Able to work flexible hours including evenings and/ or weekends.

Position: (4) F&B SUPERVISOR

Qualifications: Strong customer service skills and people oriented. Must be reliable and self-motivated. Is able to stand for long periods of time and lift up to 25 pounds. Minimum 3 years work experience as F&B supervisor, preferably in a hotel. Foreign language skills are a plus. Must be able to work a variable schedule on occasion, including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Position: (1) PAINTER

Qualifications: 2 years work experience as a painter. Must have an eye for detail and good judgment. Must be able to carry and lift up to 35 pounds without any assistance. Able to work flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

Position: (2) PLUMBER

Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years plumbing experience, preferably in a hotel or similar large building or complex with central plant. Knowledge of the tools, equipment, and materials common to the plumbing trade is required. Must be able to carry and lift heavy objects. Willingness to work outside (if necessary) in inclement weather and able to work flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

Position: (2) STEWARD SUPERVISOR

Qualifications: 3 years experience in stewarding; 1 year experience as stewarding supervisor. Must be able to work long hours and handle pressure. Must have strong knowledge of sanitation procedure and health codes and implementation. Able to work flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

Position: (1) ACCOUNTING ANALYST- Accounts Payable/Disbursements

Qualifications: College graduate, Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, major in accounting is preferred. 3 years progressive experience in accounts payable and general accounting experience. Strong knowledge of relevant computer software application, particularly SAP, R3, and FICO. Proficient in data entry and management. Must have strong problem and communication skills. Attention to detail and accuracy is essential. Must be able to work under pressure. Able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays when required. →

Position: (2) ACCOUNTING ANALYST- Accounts Receivable

Qualifications: College graduate, Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, major in accounting preferred. 3 years progressive experience in accounts receivable operations. Must have strong knowledge of relevant computer software applications, particularly SAP, R3, and FICO. Proficient in data entry and management. Must have strong problem and communication skills. Attention to detail and accuracy is essential. Must be able to work under pressure. Able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays when required.

Position: (1) COST ACCOUNTANT

Qualifications: Generally responsible for ensuring that food and beverage costs are within hotel standards. Renders regular reporting of food and beverage costs to management. Calculates food cost of regular menu items and assists banquet department in costing special banquet menus. Witness/participates in the periodic physical inventory counts and reports to immediate supervisor for any major discrepancies. Bachelor's Degree in accounting, business, or finance is preferred. Minimum of 3 years work experience as cost accountant, preferably in a hotel. Proficient in computer software applications, particularly SAP, R3, and FICO. Able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays when required.

Position: (1) PURCHASING SUPERVISOR

Qualifications: College graduate, Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, major in accounting preferred. Minimum of 3 years progressive work experience as a purchasing supervisor, preferably in a hotel or fast-paced environment. Ability to make judgments regarding alternative means of procuring materials/goods or services based on cost and serviceability. Ability to pay close attention to detail with a high degree of accuracy. Ability to adapt to changes in work environment, work assignments, and/or changes in priorities. Proficient in Microsoft Office applications and other software particularly SAP, R3, and FICO. Experienced with inventories to include, but not limited to, Food and Beverage, dry goods, and Housekeeping Cleaning & Guest Supplies is a requirement. Willing to work flexible schedule on occasion including weekends.

Position: (1) FOOD AND BEVERAGE ASSISTANT

Qualifications: 3 years experience and responsibility in management level in food & beverage from a high volume restaurant or hotel is preferred. Strong customer and people skills are essential. Must be able to work under pressure and time constraints. Strong organizational and time management skills are necessary. Knowledgeable on sanitation and health regulation and implementation thereof. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early mornings, weekends, nights, and holidays.

Position: (2) GUEST RELATIONS AGENT

Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. 1-2 years previous work experience as guest relations agent in a high volume hotel is highly preferred. Language speaking skill in Japanese, Korean or Chinese is advantageous. Strong customer service and communication skills are essential. Must have good problem solving skills. Must be able to multitask and is a team player. Knowledge of computer applications is required. Must be able to work flexible schedule including nights, weekends, and holidays.

Position: (1) INCOME AUDITOR

Qualifications: 4 years progressive experience as an income auditor preferably in a high volume hotel. AA or BA in either accounting or in the hospitality finance is preferred. Strong math and computer skills, particularly with spreadsheets; knowledgeable with accounting software particularly in SAP, R3, and FICO are required. Must have an eye for detail; strong time management and organizational skills are essential. Must be able to work under pressure and can work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays when required.

Position: (1) EXECUTIVE HOUSEKEEPER

Qualifications: 6 months to a year of experience in the housekeeping industry in a high volume hotel. Must show documented success during 6 months to a year of progressive experience and responsibility in management level. Proficient in a hotel property management system and computer software applications. Excellent time management and organizational skills. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, weekends, and holidays. Must be able to stand on feet for long periods of time.

Position: (1) DIRECTOR OF ROOMS

Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years progressive experience in a comparable position in a luxury hotel operation. Excellent guest service and resolution skills. Strong knowledge of all aspects of Rooms Division operations; strong organizational and interpersonal skills. Must have the flexibility to meet the demands of a 24 hour operation and the ability to work comprehensively with spreadsheets and budgeting packages. Able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

Position: (3) HOUSEKEEPING CLEANER

Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. 6 months to 1 year prior cleaning experience in a large building complex is preferred but willing to train the right candidate. Must be able to lift and carry up to 30 pounds. Must have attention to detail, working carefully within the minimum time is essential. Can work flexible schedule including weekends, nights, holidays, and back-to-back when necessary.

Position: (1) GENERAL MAINTENANCE WORKER

Qualifications: 2 years experience as a general maintenance worker in repairing or replacing defective equipment parts, using hand tools and power tools and re-assemble equipment is required. Must be able to work independently. Must be able to carry and lift up to 35 pounds. Must be a team player and has good interpersonal skills. Able to work flexible schedule including nights, weekends, and holidays.

Position: (6) COOK

Qualifications: 2 years experience as a cook in international cuisine is required and preferably from a high volume restaurant or hotel. Must have problem solving abilities, be self-motivated, and organized. Must be able to work under pressure and adaptable to last minute work preparation. Able to work nights, weekends, and holidays.

Position: (2) DEMI CHEF

Qualifications: High School Graduate or GED. Must be able to work under extreme pressure, stand on feet for long periods of time and work in a heated environment. Strong organizational skills. 2 years previous experience as a lead cook in a high volume restaurant or hotel. Is able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, weekends, nights, and holidays.

Position: (1) DIRECTOR OF SALES & MARKETING

Qualifications: Bachelor's Degree in Sales & Marketing or Business preferred with a minimum of 6 years related experience with progressive managerial experience. Demonstrated in-depth sales, marketing techniques, and financial principles. Effective ability to communicate orally or in written form effectively with co-management, internal, and external customers. Fluency in Japanese language is highly preferred. Able to work in the field on occasion and travel off island to attend sales meetings as necessary. Must be willing to work flexible schedule including holidays and weekends.

Position: (1) ELECTRICIAN

Qualifications: 2 years progressive work experience as electrician in industrial, commercial, and residential building electrical works. Able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

Position: (1) MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT

Qualifications: BA in accounting and minimum 7 years progressive experience in finance and accounting management preferably in a hotel of high volume. Proficient in the use of SAP, R3, FICO software, and other hotel's front office and POS systems. Must have a clear understanding of internal audits and annual audits. Strong written and verbal communication, interpersonal and customer service skills. Must be willing to work flexible schedule including weekends and holidays whenever necessary.

Position: (1) MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR

Qualifications: 4 years of progressive experience as maintenance coordinator in a large building complex or hotel is highly preferred. Strong communication and interpersonal skills are essential. Must have the ability to multitask and have good time management skills. Must be proficient in computer software applications. Must be willing to work flexible schedule including holidays and weekends.

Position: (1) FRONT DESK MANAGER

Qualifications: Must have a minimum of 3 years experience in Front Desk Management in a high volume hotel or full service hotel. Strong communication skills both written and verbal are necessary; demonstrated leadership abilities. Must have an energetic and dynamic personality and able to multitask. Must be proficient in computer software applications. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including early morning hours, weekends, and holidays.

Position: (1) NIGHT AUDITOR

Qualifications: 3 years experience in hotel internal auditing preferably in a high volume hotel. Strong knowledge of mathematics and their applications. Excellent customer and interpersonal skills. Effective communication and strong computer skills are essential. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

Position: (2) LAUNDRY ATTENDANT

Qualifications: Employees in these occupations need anywhere from a few months to one year of working with experienced employees. A recognized apprenticeship program may be associated with these occupations. Experience as a laundry worker is required, preferably in a high volume hotel or establishment such as a hospital. Must be able to lift and carry 35 pounds. Must be able to stand on feet throughout work shift. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, back-to-back, nights, and holidays. Strong communication and interpersonal skills are essential.

Position: (1) ACCOUNTING MANAGER

Qualifications: A minimum of a bachelor's degree with an emphasis in accounting. 5 years experience in the area of financial statement preparation, budgeting, payroll, purchasing, accounts payable and accounts receivable, or the equivalent. Experience working with an automated financial management system. Knowledge and ability in the use of a personal computer and software applications particularly SAP, R3, and FICO. Strong organizational and analytical skills and the ability to maintain detailed records; ability to work effectively under stressful conditions. Able to communicate both written and oral. Must be able to work a varied schedule including holidays and weekends when required. The applicant must successfully complete a background check.

Position: (1) IT MANAGER

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in computer science or equivalent education and experience. Knowledge of website technologies. 3 years progressive IT experience in management level including experience in a multi office environment. Demonstrated ability to lead a team of technical staff to work with the Executive management of an organization and to manage multiple concurrent projects. Excellent verbal and communication skills; strong management skills. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, weekends, nights, and holidays.

Position: (1) SUPERVISOR, GENERAL ACCOUNTANT

Qualifications: College graduate, Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, major in accounting preferred. 4 years progressive work experience as an accountant in supervisory level. Must be computer literate and proficient in accounting software application particularly SAP, R3, and FICO. Must have strong organizational skills and be a team player. Must be able to work under pressure and time constraints. Able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays when required.

Position: (1) FOOD & BEVERAGE DIRECTOR

Qualifications: 5 years of progressive responsibility in food & beverage from a full service hotel or high volume restaurant in management position. Experienced in managing food costs, upholding menu standards, and controlling inventory. Must be able to create event-specific menus for occasions as banquets, conferences, and

catering meetings. Knowledgeable of serve safe sanitary procedures and health codes, overall compliance of all health regulations for food preparation. Proficient with computer software applications. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, weekends, nights, and holidays.

Position: (2) GUEST RELATIONS SUPERVISOR

Qualifications: 2 years experience in front office in a supervisory capacity and preferably from a full service hotel/resort. Must be able to supervise and coordinate the activities of guest relations workers to ensure that guests on vacation or business travel have a pleasant experience, while also ensuring the establishment is run efficiently and profitably. Must be proficient in computer software applications. Strong customer service and time management skills are essential. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends, and nights.

Position: (1) MAINTENANCE MANAGER

Qualifications: 5 years of skilled and increasingly responsible experience in building construction or maintenance work of which 2 years shall have been in management level. Knowledge of tools, materials, working practices and methods of the building trades, equipment, working procedures and methods required in a hotel property and grounds maintenance program, and in the repair and minor construction of hotel facilities, landscaping, plant propagation, soils, insecticides and gardening tools, laws affecting maintenance, repair and construction of the hotel facility, principles of supervision, training and management. Must be willing to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, weekends, nights, and holidays.

Position: (1) SALES EXECUTIVE- KOREAN MARKET

Qualifications: 1 year progressive experience in sales & marketing. Excellent oral and written communication in English and Korean. Must have a personable and charming personality. Has good presentation, reasoning, and negotiation with clients. Highly motivated and results-oriented. Can work effectively within the sales support teams for the achievement of guest satisfaction, revenue generation, and long-term account goals in line with the company's vision and values. Must be willing to extend and work for long hours when necessary. May be required to travel off-island to attend sales meetings when necessary. Able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

Position: (3) FOOD & BEVERAGE SENIOR SUPERVISOR

Qualifications: 2 years progressive work experience as a supervisor in food & beverage from a high volume restaurant or full service hotel. Excellent customer service skills, organizational and communication skills are essential. Knowledgeable with health, fire and sanitation regulations. Proficient with POS system. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, weekends, and holidays.

Position: (1) SUPERVISOR- ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Qualifications: High school graduate, major in accounting is preferred OR 2 years progressive experience in account payable operations in supervisory level. Strong personal computer skills is essential. Proficient knowledge in using SAP, FICO, and R3 accounting systems. Must be able to work flexible schedule including weekends and holidays when necessary.

Position: (1) MASON

Qualifications: Knowledge of related tools, masonry techniques, equipment, and materials. Skill in the construction, alteration, repair, and maintenance of masonry structures and surfaces. 3 years masonry or bricklaying experience is required. Able to work flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

Position: (5) HOUSEKEEPING SUPERVISOR

Qualifications: 2 years hotel experience in housekeeping at a supervisory level. Must have excellent communication skills and basic computer knowledge. Strong customer and interpersonal skills. Good stamina – is able to stand on feet for long period of time and can lift and carry up to 30 pounds. Able to work a flexible schedule including weekends, nights, and holidays.

Position: (1) ROOM RESERVATIONS SUPERVISOR

Qualifications: 2 years progressive work experience in rooms reservations in a supervisory level is required and preferably in a large volume hotel. Creative conflict resolution skills are essential to this position. Ability to use reservation software and manage guest database. Must be organized and posses strong communication and interpersonal skills. Must be able to work flexible schedule including weekends, nights, and holidays.

Position: (1) MECHANICAL SUPERVISOR

Qualifications: BA degree in mechanical engineering or related field AND 4 years of mechanical engineering or related experience OR 8 years of mechanical engineering or related experience OR any equivalent combination of experience and/or education from which comparable knowledge, skills, and abilities have been achieved. Must be willing to work a varied schedule including weekends and holidays.

Position: (2) STEWARD SUPERVISOR

Qualifications: 3 years experience in stewarding; 1 year stewarding supervisor experience. Must be able to work long hours and handle pressure. Have strong knowledge on Health and sanitation procedure and implementation. Able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

Position: (14) WAIT STAFF

Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent. 2 years of actual experience as wait staff is highly preferred. Ability to calculate figures, volumes and mathematical conversions. Ability to respond to common inquiries complaints from customers. Ability to write and speak clearly and effectively in English, multilingual desirable, preferably Japanese, Korean, and Chinese (but not required). Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends, and holidays.

Position: (2) BAKER

Qualifications: Six months to one year experience in creating breads and other baked goods, such as cakes, pies, and other pastries. Strong math skills, detail oriented. Familiar with baking equipment. Excellent stamina, ability to stand for long periods of time, and can lift and carry up to 35 pounds easily without any assistance. Must be able to work flexible schedule including weekends, nights, and holidays.

Position: (1) RESTAURANT MANAGER

Qualifications: 3 years progressive experience as a restaurant manager and preferably from a high volume restaurant or hotel. Strong communication, interpersonal, and customer service skills are essential. Requires ability to work under pressure and time constraints. Requires much of your time on your feet, moving between different areas and restaurant outlets. Fluency in the Japanese language is highly advantageous. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends, and holidays.

Position: (1) ASSISTANT MANAGER- ROOMS DIVISION

Qualifications: Two years experience as an Assistant Rooms Division Manager in a high volume hotel is preferred. Excellent customer service skills and ability to communicate effectively with customers and management team. Proficient with hotel property management system and computer software applications are essential. Must have profound knowledge in rooms management. Ability to speak and write in Japanese is preferred. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends, and holidays.

WORLD BRIEFS

Extremists storm AU base in Somalia, leaving many dead

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—Islamic militants from the Al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab group attacked a remote African Union base in Somalia on Friday, causing many casualties, the AU mission and a local official said. In a tweet, the African Union mission confirmed there had been an early morning attack on their outpost in the village Lego, but did not provide any further details. Mohammed Haji, an official in the Lower Shabelle region told The Associated Press by telephone that militants killed some 25 combatants, but there was no way to verify his claim. He said they attacked the base entrance with a suicide car bomb before gunmen began their assault. “They managed to infiltrate the entrance after the blast,” he said. “It was a complex attack.”

Report: World Jewish population nears pre-Holocaust level

JERUSALEM (AP)—The world’s Jewish population has grown to be nearly as large as it was before the Holocaust, an Israeli think tank said in its annual report Sunday. The Jewish People Policy Institute said there are currently 14.2 million Jews in the world. When factoring in individuals with one Jewish parent and others who identify as partially Jewish, the figure approaches 16.5 million—the Jewish population on the eve of World War II. The Nazis and their collaborators killed about 6 million Jews in the Holocaust. The report said the rise has been due in part to natural growth, mainly in Israel, which has about 6.1 million Jews and one of the Western world’s highest fertility rates.

Burundi: 2 killed in overnight attacks blamed on the police

BUJUMBURA, Burundi (AP)—At least two people were killed in overnight attacks that they believe were carried out by Burundian police, witnesses said Sunday as the country prepared for legislative elections despite an upsurge in violence. Witnesses in the Jabe neighborhood in the nation’s capital of Bujumbura, reported intense gunfire Saturday night in an apparent police crackdown on areas seen as hosting anti-government protesters. Mohamed Masumbuko said his brother, Masumbuko Prime Abdul, was killed in a grenade attack, his “face completely shredded.” He blamed the police for the attack on his neighborhood. Another victim, Patrick Ndikumana, was first hit by a bullet but was killed in a subsequent grenade attack, according to witness Joshua Ngendakumana.

Applications can be obtained at the Security Office at the Hotel's South Wing. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than July 7, 2015. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Fiesta Resort & Spa, Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans, and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW:

A Mercedes in a class by itself

By **CHARLES FLEMING**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The car you'll be driving tomorrow? It's what rich guys are driving today.

Today's flagship Mercedes vehicles boast semiautonomous safety features that will probably be available on less-expensive cars in the near future, as their costs come down and their ability to reduce accidents is proven. They may even be mandated.

For now, they can all be had for \$132,000. The current S-Class sedan, with all the toys and trimmings, can steer itself, watch for vehicles and pedestrians nearby, stop itself in case of an emergency and maintain a safe distance between other vehicles on the freeway.

This requires little operator input and makes the driving experience extremely comfortable. After an hour in the S-Class 550—lulled by heated, massaging driver's seat and the Burmester 3D Surround Sound music system—I started wondering which buttons to push for a mani-pedi and a cappuccino.

The self-driving functions will improve the skills of the inexpert, lazy or inattentive driver. (Everybody, in other words.) But they have their limitations too.

The Pre-Safe function will slow the car when traffic begins to stop, bring the car to a halt under emergency circumstances, and then will start up again—without requiring the driver to hit the brakes or the gas. The DISTRONIC Plus Steering Assist program is just that—it assists. It will execute a turn gracefully with only the slightest touch. But you can't take your hands off the wheel and expect the car to do the steering for you.

That was a bit of a disappointment. I had a crossword puzzle handy, and my knitting needles. But the dashboard quickly started blinking, ordering me to re-

turn to my driving duties.

Similar semiautonomous and safety packages are already available, at much lower rates, on less-expensive Toyota, Lexus, Honda, Acura and Subaru cars. GM, Ford and Nissan have said they would offer even more complicated self-piloting packages in the near future. And high-end versions of some of these systems already come on some Teslas, BMWs and Audis.

But few of those vehicles will parallel park themselves as elegantly as the S-Class. The car's Parktronic program, with "Active Parking Assist," is brilliant.

On a city street, pull up next to an open spot, put the car in reverse, and answer "OK" to a dashboard prompt. The vehicle does the rest—quickly and efficiently, getting into tight parking spaces with far less trouble than I had when I parked it myself.

The S-Class also performs regular driving tasks with Mercedes' usual elegance and elan.

The bi-turbo V-8 engine puts out 449 horsepower and 515 pound-feet of torque, and gets from zero to 60 in under five seconds. The vehicle can be instructed to run in Economy or Sport mode, and with Comfort or Sport suspension settings. Because this model was fitted with the patented Magic Body Control system, it felt like it was riding on air—scanning the road ahead, and making minute adjustments to smooth out the ride.

The Warmth and Comfort Package added a heated steering wheel, heated and ventilated rear seats (the front ones come that way, standard), and even heated front and rear armrests. The standard Magic Vision Control features a heated wiper system, which keeps the windshield crystal clear. The Estime Management System lights the dashboard with the words, "You look fantastic today." (Kidding on that last one.)

Such performance and luxury don't come cheap. This S550 has a base price of \$95,000. But this particular model also had that Burmester sound system, which adds \$6,400, and a "Silk Beige/Esspresso Brown" Nappa leather interior, which adds \$4,450, and a sport package with special wheels, bumpers and side skirts, which adds \$5,900.

Those options may not make the S-Class safer, or mark it as the car of the future. But they certainly add to the pleasure of driving one today.



The 2015 Mercedes-Benz S550 offers a host of semi-autonomous driving features, and on the freeway almost drives itself—almost. AP

In celebration of his new life

† Pedro Wesley Torres

Born to Life: October 16, 1945 | Called to Eternal Life: June 22, 2015

Parents: †Jesus Arriola Torres & †Francisca Wesley Torres

Parents in law: †Leonardo Camacho Cabrera & †Ignacia Celis Cabrera

Wife: Margarita Cabrera Torres

Children: Margaret Bertha C. Torres & Frederick A. Pangelinan & Children

Jacqueline Joan C. & Joseph D. Camacho & Children

Peter W. & Trina Lynn DLG Torres & Children

Jesse Leonard C. & Gina Lynn T. Torres & Children

Risha Joyce C. Torres & Joseph T. Lifofoi & Children

Sisters/Brothers: Rita T. & †Malcolm C. Weidner & Family

†Jose W. Torres

Jesus W. Torres & Family

Francisco W. & Diana C. Torres & Family

†Juan W. & Barbara A. Torres & Family

Magdalena W. Torres & Martin C. Tenorio & Family

†Joseph W. & Rosita C. Torres & Family

Teresita T. & James Applebaum & Family

Matilde T. & Lawrence Gozrulak & Family

Margarita T. & Dr. Vicente S. Aldan & Family

Maria T. & Norman Peters & Family

Roman W. Torres & Bridgette Imaizumi & Family

Sisters/Brothers In-Law: Eugenia C. & †Calistro S. Cepeda & Family

Victorina C. & †Glenn D. Butteris & Family

Remedios C. Diaz & Family

Diana C. & Francisco W. Torres & Family

†Juan C. Cabrera & Family

Dolores C. & Juan S. Camacho & Family

Bernadita C. & Mark I. Palacios & Family

Pedro C. & Emerita Cabrera & Family

†Jose C. Cabrera

Special family friends: Terry L. & Amanda D. Vaughn & Family

He will also be missed by his numerous, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Mass of Intentions for the repose of His soul are being celebrated daily at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00 a.m. and at Santa Soledad Church at 6:00 p.m.

Funeral Services will be held on Thursday, July 02, 2015. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 8:00 am to Kristo Rai Church.

Responso Service will be at 8:15 am followed by Holy Rosary at 8:30 am.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 am followed by Interment Services at Santuario Pax Memorial Gardens in Kagman, where he will be at a peaceful rest.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Margarita C. Torres, Children & Family

NUTS & BOLTS

Mercedes S-Class safety features

■ **DISTRONIC Plus:** Uses radar to scan the road ahead and begins to brake before a collision. Can bring the car to a complete stop without the driver's assistance.

■ **Adaptive Cruise Control:** Allows the driver to choose a speed for cruise control, like most cars, but will maintain a safe distance from other vehicles—slowing down or speeding up on its own at freeway speeds.

■ **Blind Spot Assist and Active Lane Keeping Assist:** With the aid of side-mounted cameras, warns a driver who's about to change lanes into another vehicle; vibrates the steering wheel if the driver veers across the white or yellow lines.

■ **PreSafe:** Anticipates a collision, and automatically tightens seat belts, adjusts head rests and seats, and closes windows.

■ **Parking Assist:** Cameras in the bumpers tell the car whether the parallel parking space is big enough. If it is, the driver need only put the S-Class into reverse, engage the autopark function and release the brakes.

Life & Style

Chris Brown, Nicki Minaj, Beyonce win big at BET Awards

By MESFIN FEKADU
AP MUSIC WRITER

Though she was absent, Beyonce won three BET Awards, including video of the year for “7/11,” while Chris Brown and Nicki Minaj also won multiple awards at the all-star show Sunday night.

But the show was less about the awards—video of the year didn’t even make the live broadcast—as performances stole the night.

As Janet Jackson entered the stage at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles, Brown screamed loudly, Minaj whipped out her phone to record the moment and Laverne Cox was teary-eyed. The pop star was honored with the Ultimate Icon: Music Dance Visual Award as she made one of her first public performances in sometime as she readies a new album and tour this fall.

“It’s been a very long moment to this journey ... my heart is so full,” Jackson said to the audience, which included her mother and father. “To my beautiful mother, to my beautiful father, and to my entire family, your love is unbreakable.”

An impressive Ciara, Jason Derulo and Tinashe paid tribute to the 49-year-old veteran by mimicking her signature



AP
Chris Brown accepts the fandemonium award at the BET Awards at the Microsoft Theater on Sunday, June 28, 2015, in Los Angeles.

dance moves.

“Twenty five years ago we created ‘Rhythm Nation,’ hoping the world would be a better place, but today there’s even more to be done,” Jackson said.

Jackson wasn’t the only show stopper Sunday: Diddy dropped it like it’s hot at the awards show—figuratively and literally.

The entertainer fell during an exciting performance that celebrated Bad Boy Records’ 20th year anniversary, one of the night’s highlights. Lil Kim, Mase, Faith Evans, 112 and The Lox joined Diddy as they performed a medley of past hits. A video montage of rap king Notorious B.I.G. appeared in

the background as his verse from “Mo Money Mo Problems” played.

Brown performed multiple times, and won best male R&B/pop artist and the fandemonium award.

“A lot has changed in my life, a lot of mistakes, a lot of lessons learned. The best thing I’m most

thankful for is my daughter,” he said onstage. “I’m so thankful and happy to have the loyal fans ... and everybody here that knows me, to know me is to love me.”

The show Sunday brought a mix of funny and serious moments. Rapping on top of a police car with a large American flag waving behind him, hip-hop prince Kendrick Lamar kicked off the BET Awards with a dose of seriousness, but also brought a fiery energy thanks to his charisma and beat of his song, “Alright.”

He later won best male hip-hop artist.

“This is for Compton, this is for Watts,” the Los Angeles-born rapper said.

Janelle Monae and Jidenna also brought a serious vibe to the stage when they performed “Classic Man”: The singers and their background dancers wore large “I’m a Classic Man” signs around their necks, a reference to the historic “I Am a Man” civil rights era protest signs.

And as Anthony Hamilton and Gary Clark Jr. performed while photos of celebrities who died appeared on screen, a montage of the nine people who were gunned down at a church in Charleston earlier this month closed the performance.

“Black-ish” actors Anthony Anderson and Tracee Ellis Ross won over the crowd with back-to-back jokes, including one about Rachel Dolezal, the former president of the Spokane chapter of the NAACP.

Luke Bryan, Paisley, Bentley headline 1st NYC country fest

NEW YORK (AP)—The Big Apple has a country music radio station, and country music stars of all sizes regularly perform and sell out New York City: Shania Twain is headlining Madison Square Garden this week.

Yet for all the music festivals the city hosts, there hadn’t been a major country music festival—until this weekend.

Country fans took over Randall’s Island for FarmBorough,

what has been billed as the first music festival here for the genre. They flocked there to see headliners Brad Paisley, Luke Bryan and Dierks Bentley, as well as other acts including newcomers Maddie & Tae.

“I think they probably could have done this festival a long time ago,” Bentley told reporters before he performed on Friday, when the event kicked off. It ends on Sunday, with Bryan closing out the three-day event,

which endured rain on Saturday.

New York has a healthy appetite for country music; a 2011 Nielsen SoundScan survey showed New York had the largest country market in the United States based on album sales. But the city hasn’t always reflected that; the only country radio station Nash 94.7 (WNSH) debuted in 2013, giving the genre its first sustained presence on radio after 17 years.

“Up until they got NASH 94.7 I had to stream everything online or use albums that I already had,” said New York resident Karen Webb. “I hope this festival is the first of many to come.”

Festival organizers, Live Nation and Founders Entertainment, planned to benefit from Governors Ball, held on Randall’s Island just three weeks ago, by using equipment from the Founders-produced pop music festival.

“They waited until all the conditions were right. They wanted to make sure that they just nailed it from the get go,” said Bentley.

Brian Thomas, program di-

rector for Nash 94.7, said: “For the longest time I have wanted to bring country to New York.”

“It’s just great to see the passion. Every time we are out on location, we are at concerts, it’s great to see the passion from the listeners for us and for bringing country music to New York City,” Thomas said.

Festival organizers are expecting over 40,000 fans. Staten Island native Matt Williams said FarmBorough’s vibe is different than other festivals he has attended because it’s more “laid back and relaxed and you are not on top of everybody.”

The festival’s line-up also included Kip Moore, Dwight Yoakam and Mickey Guyton as well as a “Next from Nashville” stage to introduce up-and-coming artist.

Ahead of his Friday night performance, Bentley said he believes FarmBorough is here to stay and that New Yorkers were ready to party.

“I totally trust New York country fans. They are hardcore, they are dedicated and they are appreciate you are here,” he said.

Illusionist Criss Angel rescues escape artist after accident

MASHANTUCKET, Conn. (AP)—Criss Angel’s rescue of an escape artist trapped in a water-filled box was no illusion.

Angel and Spencer Horsman were rehearsing for opening night of the illusionist’s show at a Connecticut casino when Horsman became trapped in the box dangling above the stage and Angel came to his aid.

The Las Vegas Sun reports that Horsman is recovering from the Wednesday accident.

President and CEO Felix Rappaport of Foxwoods Resort Casino says in a statement that the show will go on.

Rappaport says opening night of “The Supernaturalists” was rescheduled from Thursday to Friday because the safety of the cast and crew is the priority.



AP
In this June 22, 2011, file photo, Criss Angel is photographed on the red carpet before the 2011 NHL Awards in Las Vegas.



AP
Justin Moore performs during day two of the 2015 FarmBorough Music Fest on Saturday, June 27, 2015, in New York.

'Ted 2' lags behind 'Jurassic World,' 'Inside Out'



AP
In this image released by Universal Pictures, the character Ted, voiced by Seth MacFarlane, left, and Mark Wahlberg appear in a scene from the film, "Ted 2."

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A foul-mouthed Teddy bear is no match for a pack of dinosaurs.

Seth MacFarlane's "Ted 2" opened far under expectations with \$32.9 million, according to Rentrak estimates Sunday, ceding the top two spots to holdovers "Jurassic World" and "Inside Out."

While \$32.9 million is a solid opening for an R-rated comedy, bigger things were expected from "Ted 2," which cost a reported \$68 million to produce.

The Universal Pictures sequel was expected to earn somewhere in the \$50 million range going into its debut weekend, thanks to the record-setting precedent of the first film, which earned \$54.4 million in 2012.

In addition to mediocre reviews, perhaps the initial intrigue around a raunchy stuffed animal has worn off a bit.

"It's hard to maintain that hyper level of excitement once people have seen the talking Teddy bear," Rentrak's Senior Media Analyst Paul Dergarabedian said. "In comedy, it's about inventiveness, newness and the shock value of something original."

Universal's domestic distribution head, Nick Carpou, said that the positive response from exit polls indicates a promising life for the movie in the weeks ahead.

"We could have had a higher gross, but we get the gross we get. It was a very competitive marketplace this weekend," said Carpou, who noted that the

first film's gross was a massive surprise to the studio.

"Jurassic World," also a Universal film, narrowly held the top spot for the third weekend in a row with a mighty \$54.2 million, pushing it past the \$500 million mark domestically—only the fifth film to do so in history.

Carpou said the film's record-setting performance has exceeded his high expectations every step of the way. He's excited that it seems that audiences are returning for repeat viewings.

Disney and Pixar's "Inside Out," meanwhile, finished at a close No. 2, earning \$52.1 million—only a 42 percent drop from its first weekend in theaters.

Dergarabedian marveled at

Joni Mitchell rep says she had aneurysm, but recovering well

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Joni Mitchell's friend and conservator says it was an aneurysm that sent the folk singer to the hospital in March.

Conservator Leslie Morris acknowledged the aneurysm in a statement posted on Mitchell's website on Sunday, providing the first significant details on Mitchell's health status in the months since an ambulance was sent to her Los Angeles house to take her to the hospital.

Morris says Mitchell is speaking—and speaking well—while recovering at



home. She's unable to walk, but is expected to soon and make a full recovery.

Morris was appointed Mitchell's conservator in May when a judge decided Mitchell couldn't make health care decisions for herself and had no relatives who could serve as conservator.

Mitchell is a rock Hall-of-Famer who has won eight Grammys.

AP
In this Oct. 11, 2014 file photo, Joni Mitchell arrives to the Hammer Museum's "Gala In The Garden," in Los Angeles.

the consistency of "Jurassic World" and "Inside Out."

"These are no flash-in-the-pan movies. Both are delivering exactly what audiences want," he said.

"Max," the other new opener,

brought in a modest but expected \$12.2 million to finish fourth. Warner Bros. is distributing the PG-rated MGM movie about a PTSD-afflicted military dog who goes to live with his handler's family.

The film, which cost under \$20 million to produce, is performing especially well in the South, the Southeast and the Midwest, according to Warner Bros.' domestic distribution EVP Jeff Goldstein.

Prankster invades Kanye West stage at Glastonbury festival

LONDON (AP)—Kanye West declared himself "the greatest living rock star on the planet" at Britain's Glastonbury festival. But that didn't prevent a prankster from invading the rapper's performance and upstaging him.

West's headline set Saturday night was briefly interrupted when

comedian Lee Nelson stormed onto the stage, rapping along with the star. A security guard quickly bundled him offstage.

Later, Nelson—whose real name is Simon Brodwin—tweeted: "Some people were saying Kanye shouldn't headline Glastonbury so I thought

I'd give him a hand."

The prank amused many fans, who recalled how West crashed Taylor Swift's 2009 acceptance speech at the Video Music Awards.

It wasn't the only amusing thing about West's set, which presented a problem for the BBC's subtitles team because of his often expletive-laden lyrics. Many on Twitter shared the comic wordplay that appeared on their screens in place of offensive words—including one subtitle that simply read: "He raps."

West performed his hits, as well as Queen's hit "Bohemian Rhapsody"—a rendition that divided opinion. He also gushed over his wife Kim Kardashian, who was supporting him backstage, saying she "brought this poetry out of me." The couple earlier arrived at the festival by helicopter.



AP
Kanye West performs on The Pyramid Stage at the Glastonbury Festival, at Worthy Farm in Somerset, England, Saturday June 27, 2015.

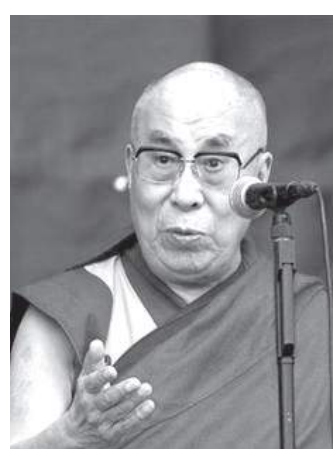
Dalai Lama joins Patti Smith on Glastonbury festival stage

LONDON (AP)—One of the most talked-about appearances at Britain's Glastonbury music festival wasn't a singer or rocker—it was the Dalai Lama.

The exiled Tibetan spiritual leader joined singer Patti Smith on stage Sunday, where she led the crowd to sing "Happy Birthday" to mark his 80th birthday next week. She then presented him with a birthday cake.

The spiritual leader, who appeared at the festival for the first time, praised Smith's white hair, voice and "physical action," saying she was "very beautiful, very forceful."

He earlier spoke on a small platform about the need for a moral



AP
The Dalai Lama speaks to the crowd during the Glastonbury music festival on Sunday, June 28, 2015 at Worthy Farm, Glastonbury, England.

education at schools and universities. The Nobel Peace Prize winner also praised Glastonbury a "festival of people, not politicians and governments."

He earlier dismissed as a "usual response" criticism from the Chinese foreign affairs ministry, which said it was firmly opposed to any organization that gave a platform to his "anti-China separatist activities."

"Whenever I meet people or an organization, the Chinese officials always protest," he said. "They consider me as a demon so they have to oppose the demon's activities, although I'm not seeking independence or separation."

Woman's belief of parentage needs facts to back her claim

DEAR ABBY: I recently received a Facebook message from a 47-year-old mother of four who believes she is my daughter. While I do not remember her mother and have communicated this to the woman, the pictures she sent of her children somewhat resemble my family.

I'm happily married with two sons, and my wife is aware of this and will support any decision I make. I'm conflicted about the choices before me and the impact they may have on her family and mine. What is the right thing to do?

CONFLICTED IN FLORIDA

DEAR CONFLICTED: Try to get a little more background from the woman about her mother. For instance, WHY does she think you are her father? Were you and her mother ever in the same place at the same time? If there is a possibility that you could be her dad, the ethical thing to do would be to let her know that your attorney will be contacting her to arrange a DNA test.

DEAR ABBY: Please tell me what to say to persuade my friend to stop driving up in front of my house and honking his horn. I have asked him twice not to do it, but it continues.

It may seem like a small thing to him, but I think it's dis-

respectful to me for him to toot his horn like I'm supposed to come running out. A more courteous approach would be to call me and say he's near, or to ring the doorbell when he arrives. Am I being old-fashioned?

EXPECTS RESPECT IN CHARLOTTE, N.C.

DEAR EXPECTS: No. In light of the fact that you have asked this person more than once not to do this, he is rude. In addition, when a driver honks his or her horn repeatedly in a residential neighborhood, the noise can be disruptive to your neighbors.

DEAR ABBY: I recently phoned one of my mother's best friends, "Edna," to wish her a happy birthday. It was her 101st. When I asked her about her family, she spent some time sobbing over the recent news that her eldest son has cancer.

My first thought—and that of several others—was, why was she told?! Edna is frail and in poor health. She has seen her share of tragedies and losses in her long life, and I think she should have been spared this devastating news.

Hearing her sob on her birthday broke my heart. However, a couple of my friends disagreed with me. They thought she ought to know. Your thoughts on this would be appreciated.

WONDERING IN THE WEST

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR WONDERING: There are no hard-and-fast rules that apply to these situations. Although Edna may no longer be able to live independently, her thinking may be clear and she is still the matriarch of the family. When you withhold information from someone, even if it's well-intentioned, it isolates the person. Because the conversation upset you to such an extent that you felt you had to write to me, my thought is you should let Edna's children know what happened.

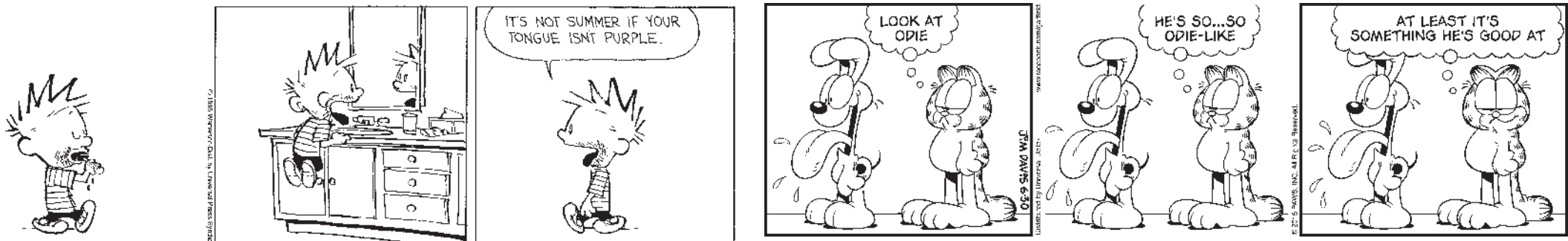
To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

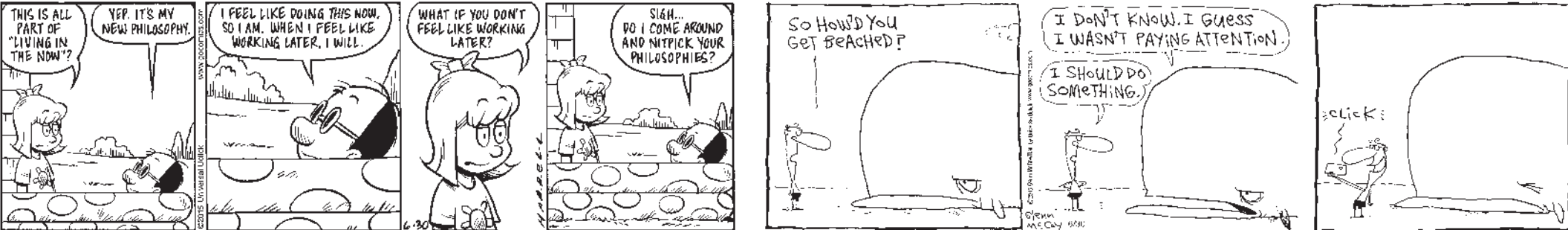
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Parks or Bonheur

5 Chess piece

9 Dandy

12 Sleeping

13 Conception

14 White House nickname

15 Big-bucks specialist

17 Pinch

18 Heart of the matter

19 Holds sway

21 Add on

24 Count-ess in "Downton Abbey"

25 Advertis-ing award

26 Presenta-tions

30 Sun shade?

31 On all — (crawling)

32 Anony-mous John

33 Cheap ride section

35 Carriage

36 "Star —"

37 Stash a lot

38 Crouch

40 Hoodlum

42 Tri-umphed

43 A little pointer?

48 Mimic

49 Russian river

50 Killer whale

51 Third degree?

52 Tardy

53 Spud's buds

3 Rep.'s counter-part

4 At a slow tempo

5 Snap-shots

6 Mine entrance

7 Tiny

8 NYC's Ver-razano— Bridge

9 Vodka brand or Sibelius work

10 Tom Joad, e.g.

11 Ener-gizes, with "up"

16 Kibosh

20 Swiss canton

21 Performs

22 Level

23 Tweaked

24 Heart

26 Drench

27 Embrace

28 No stay-at-home

29 Transmit

31 Worri-some

34 Historic time

35 Fifth president

37 Weeding tool

38 Trade

39 19th Hebrew letter

40 Summer-time pest

41 Look lascivi-ously

44 Play-wright Levin

45 Take a whack at

46 Lemieux milieu

47 — de deux

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-30

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Michael Phelps, 30; Monica Potter, 44; Mike Tyson, 49; David Alan Grier, 60.

Happy Birthday: Let your innovative mind take over. Don't just dream about what you want to achieve—find a way to make things happen. Break ground that will encourage you to improve your position and your lifestyle. Aggressive behavior may not be your thing, but you'll need to step things up a notch if you want to get ahead. Don't shy away from change. Your numbers are 8, 14, 22, 25, 33, 39, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Make plans for a getaway with someone you love. Explore creative possibilities or sign up for a course to learn about a hobby that interests you. Don't let anyone interfere with your plans. Make romance a priority. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Participate in activities that can teach you something new. Avoid making promises you cannot keep. Don't purchase items just to impress the people around you. Be realistic about what you can accomplish, and don't put demands on others. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Make home and personal improvements. By updating your surroundings, you'll make your place more appealing to the people you want to hang out with more. Make the most of your looks and your talents. Be kind to yourself. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A cautious, direct approach to work and getting along with your colleagues will

bring the best results. Don't be too quick to make an impulsive move. A day trip will give you a different perspective on life. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A change at work will be beneficial. Apply for a new position or network with people you know can help you get ahead. Let your charm and generosity be your calling cards. Love is highlighted, and romance is in the stars. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Domestic problems will surface if you neglect your responsibilities or ignore an emotional plea for help. Offering a firm, precise and realistic solution will improve the situation, but it won't fix things if you are the only one doing the work. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your knowledge and expertise will win you a chance to participate in something special. Don't let someone's negativity or gruff nature stop you from joining in. Someone you meet will want to share something special with you. A partnership will be inviting. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your drive and intensity will take you to the winner's circle. Let your imagination, vision and intuition be your guide, and you will know instinctively how and when to make your move. Good fortune is heading your way. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't limit what you can do. Be willing to travel, indulge in new interests or beef up your skills if it will help you reach your chosen goals. Make alterations at home that will fit in to your professional journey. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't create problems when you should be dealing with unfinished business in order to eliminate what hasn't been working for you. Too much of anything will set you back. Don't get angry—get busy turning a negative into a positive. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll attract attention if you speak on behalf of a cause. Your intellect will shine through at organizational functions, allowing you to accomplish what you set out to do. Someone special will be proud of you. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't let emotional issues spin out of control. Deal with domestic problems without bringing an outsider into the situation. Honesty will be required if you want to make changes to the way you are living. Deception will backfire. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are helpful, hardworking and diplomatic. You are persuasive and precise.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Difficulty Level ★★

6/30

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH Solution: 7 letters

DEMOUTRIGHTIMET
ERIYFITONRTHRRP
TEAMOMTRUCEUORD
BCLWPDNTASSPOIE
UNCRRAHESSEODSC
OIOEEOREARFNAEL
DSRTCAFETULAYOLA
NBPHENLTICISLBR
ULTIOSAIIHARIAAE
AULCLMPBTGLDETXT
TNIALLPXEOYLEVETSP
TTELEMORALCAEUR
EYSPTCAXEK DARRE
SACCORDIRECTSTST
TCERROCREDBLES

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8 4 7 1 6 3 2 9 5
6 1 2 7 5 9 4 3 8
9 3 5 2 4 8 6 7 1
3 6 4 8 9 1 7 5 2
1 2 8 6 7 5 3 4 9
7 5 9 3 2 4 1 8 6
2 8 6 9 3 7 5 1 4
5 9 3 4 1 6 8 2 7
4 7 1 5 8 2 9 6 3

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Yesterday's Answer: Dazzle

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42 or 43, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

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LeBron bypasses option, becomes free agent



CLEVELAND (AP)— For the third time in six seasons, LeBron James is an unrestricted free agent.

The difference this time is he has no plans to move again.

The Cleveland star will not exercise a \$21.6 million option on his contract for next season, a person with knowledge of the decision told The Associated Press on Sunday. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because neither the Cavaliers nor James were publicly discussing the process.

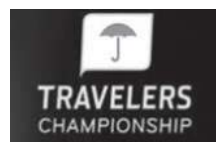
James' decision has been widely expected for months. The approach allows him to sign a new maximum contract—likely another two-year deal with a player option for 2017-18—that will pay him more than he would have made under his previous contract. His max number for next season, which is tied to how high the salary cap rises, is expected to be more than \$22 million.

The last time James became a free agent from Cleveland in 2010, he famously left his home state team to play for the Miami Heat. James won two championships and played in four NBA Finals in his four years in Miami before making the celebrated decision to return home last summer.



Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James (23) is defended by Golden State Warriors center Festus Ezeli (31) during the second half of Game 6 of basketball's NBA Finals in Cleveland, Tuesday, June 16, 2015.

Watson wins Travelers Championship on 2nd playoff hole



CROMWELL, Conn. (AP)— Bubba Watson is hard to beat in a playoff.

The long-driving lefty made an 8-foot birdie putt on the second extra hole Sunday to outlast Paul Casey for his second Travelers Championship victory.

Watson improved to 5-1 in overtime.

Casey overcame a three-stroke deficit with five to play, catching Watson at 16-under 264 in light rain at TPC River Highlands.

But the 37-year-old Englishman, playing the tournament for the first time, lost his chance at the title while playing the par-4 18th for the third time when his third shot from a greenside bunker flew over the green and landed on the cart path.

Watson hit his 160-yard approach just to the right of the hole to set up his winning putt.

"I hung on, and that's what you have to do sometimes to win," Watson said.

Watson, who also needed extra holes to win the WGC-HSBC Champions in China in November at the start of the season and won the Travelers in 2010 in a three-way playoff for his first win on the PGA Tour.

"It's just about staying calm," he said. "That's what you have to do, you just breathe and walk slower, take some deep breaths and focus on the fact that no

matter what you still come in second place."

Watson had a chance to win in regulation. But the two-time Masters champion bogeyed the 17th, while Casey closed with three birdies on the final five holes, sandwiched around a bogey on 15.

Casey watched in the scoring trailer with 9-month-old son Lex on his lap as Watson made a 3 1/2-foot par putt to force the playoff.

Watson finished with a 67, and Casey shot 65.

"There are always ifs and buts and could haves," Casey said. "But the goal was to give myself a chance to win, and I did that."

This was the sixth time since 2004 this tournament has gone to overtime.

Brian Harman, who had a one-stroke lead after 54 holes, had a 69 to finish a stroke out of the playoff. After 39 straight holes without a bogey, he had back-to-back bogeys on Nos. 9 and 10 to fall two strokes behind Watson. His birdies on the final two holes were not enough to catch Casey and Watson.

But the finish assured the 28-year-old from Georgia a spot in the British Open, along with Canadian Graham DeLaet, who finished two shots back, Carl Pettersson who finished fifth at 13 under, and Luke Donald, who tied for seventh at 11 under. Sixth-place finisher Zach Johnson already had an exemption

into the field.

"I've been thinking about that tournament for a long time and really trying to look at a way to get in there," Harman said. "This one burns a little bit, but that definitely helps the sting."

The Travelers was the first of three PGA Tour events where finishers not already exempt can get into St. Andrew's. There also are four spots available at The Greenbrier Classic and one at the John Deere Classic.

Watson became the sixth multiple winner of this tournament, joining Billy Casper (1963, 1965, 1968, 1973), Arnold Palmer (1956, 1960), Paul Azinger (1987, 1989), Phil Mickelson (2001, 2002), Peter Jacobsen (1984, 2003) and Stewart Cink (1997, 2008).

Rain forced a late start Sunday, and the players went off in threesomes from two tees. But the wet weather also created scoring opportunities, with players taking advantage of the soft greens to shoot for the pins.

Watson started strong with birdies on his first two holes, chiding a fan on the second hole who had suggested he go under a tree with a 4-iron. Watson used a wedge that he hit to 6 feet.

He seemed to lock up the championship on the 13th, where he sank a 39-foot putt for eagle, his longest made putt of the tournament.

His approach at 14 ended up 13-feet right of the pin, but his

birdie putt ended up on the front lip of the cup.

"I was hoping nobody else would birdie, but Paul Casey decided he wanted to birdie some holes to make it interesting," Watson said.

Casey began the day tied for fourth, but moved up quickly. His second shot at the 431-yard third hole bounced once from 126 yards out and went straight into the hole for an eagle. He also made a 64-footer for birdie on the par-3 eighth hole.

He made a 6-foot birdie putt on 16, and a 15-footer on 17 to stay in contention. Watson lost his lead after hitting his approach on 17 to the right of the hole behind two bunkers.

Both made par on the first playoff hole. But on the second, Watson's tee shot when down the middle, and Casey found bunkers on his first two shots.

"It does remind me of 2010, where coming down the stretch I had to hit some good shots and I didn't," Watson said. "I wish it was a lot easier, but a victory is a victory."

Watson led after the first two rounds, but was a stroke back of Harman after Saturday. He becomes the fifth golfer to win this tournament since 2000 after leading or being tied for the lead going into the second round.

He also moved closer to his career goal.

"My whole goal in my career was to get 10 wins," he said. "I need two more wins."

This time around, James plans to stay put while Cavaliers owner Dan Gilbert and GM David Griffin set about improving the roster in hopes of surrounding James with the talent he will need to end Cleveland's 51-year championship drought.

The Cavaliers have plenty of decisions to make and negotiations to conduct for free agents Kevin Love, Tristan Thompson and Iman Shumpert. But the process with James will be fairly straight forward. He's made it clear through actions and words to Cavaliers management that he isn't going anywhere.

"We've heard from him every day pretty much relative to our roster," Griffin said last week. "It's been great. He's been very much engaged with us on a lot of different levels, so it's been positive."

James led the short-handed Cavaliers back to the finals in

June and put on a breath-taking performance to make the Golden State sweat it out for six games before Steph Curry and Co. captured the Warriors' first title since 1975. With Love and Kyrie Irving out with injuries, James averaged 35.8 points, 13.3 rebounds, 8.8 assists and almost 46 minutes in the series.

If James signs another two-year contract with a player option on the second year, it would allow him to reap the financial windfall that is expected when the NBA's new television contract kicks in next summer and sends the salary cap sky-rocketing.

Teams can start negotiating with players on July 1 and sign them to contracts beginning July 8.

James' deal will likely be tabled while the Cavaliers address Thompson, Love and Shumpert, who is a restricted free agent.

Djokovic back to tennis, and focused on Wimbledon



LONDON (AP)— After losing in the French Open final, Novak

Djokovic wanted nothing to do with tennis.

For about a week, anyway. Now, with his opening match at Wimbledon coming Monday on Centre Court, the top-ranked Serb is firmly focused on defending his title.

"Took me some time really to recover and to rest after Paris. I didn't want to think about tennis too much," said Djokovic, who lost to Stan Wawrinka in four sets at Roland Garros. "Got myself on the court about 10 days ago, started practicing on grass."

"Right now I think I'm also 100 percent prepared."

Wimbledon starts this year a bit later than normal, with a three-week break since the French Open. That gave some players more opportunity to make the transition from the slow red clay to the faster grass surface, and gave others the chance to rest.

Roger Federer and Andy Murray, two of Djokovic's main rivals at the All England Club, both won grass-court tournaments in the buildup to Wimbledon. But Djokovic hasn't played a competitive match since facing Wawrinka in Paris.

"It's not of my concern, honestly. I just want to get myself in a best possible shape," Djokovic said Sunday. "I'm aware of the adjustment that is required movement-wise, game-wise, and also mentally for the grass courts coming from clay courts."

The defending women's champion, Petra Kvitova, won't start her tournament until Tuesday. The second-seeded Czech will play Kiki

Bertens of the Netherlands in the first round.

Kvitova also hasn't played since the French Open, where she lost in the fourth round. And she took some time off earlier in the year to rest, skipping big tournaments in Paris and Florida.

"I feel much better than before. I'm really happy to be back on the court to play tennis, to really do what I love," Kvitova said. "It was really tough decision for me to miss the two big tournaments during March. I did do it. I'm glad that I did it."

If Kvitova makes it back to the final this year, she could end up facing Serena Williams. The top-seeded American, who is looking to win her third major title of the year and is on course for a true Grand Slam, will open Monday against Margarita Gasparyan of Russia on Court No. 1.

Kvitova beat Williams in the semifinals at the Madrid Open last month.

"For sure for me was great win. I never beat her before," Kvitova said. "I knew what I have to play. That's what I think is the key if I want to beat her. But it's still long way if I'm going to meet Serena here."

The other woman in the mix is Maria Sharapova, the 2004 Wimbledon champion. Sharapova is seeded fourth and will face Johanna Konta of Britain in the first round, following Djokovic on court in the main stadium on Monday.

The final match on Centre Court on the opening day will see Wawrinka face Joao Sousa of Portugal.

Wawrinka is heading into Wimbledon after winning his second major title at the French Open. He also won the 2014 Australian Open.

Matz makes record debut, Mets beat Reds



NEW YORK
(AP)—In

an astonishing debut, Steven Matz became the only major league pitcher to drive in four runs in his first career game while leading the New York Mets to a 7-2 victory over the Cincinnati Reds on Sunday.

Pitching about 50 miles from home with a huge cheering section on hand, Matz (1-0) got three hits in rejuvenating an anemic offense and helping the Mets to a three-game sweep. He was awfully impressive on the mound, too, working into the eighth inning after giving up a home run to his first batter.

Matz became the first player—any position—in franchise history to drive in four runs in his first big league game, including a two-run double off Josh Smith (0-1).

The team's latest prized pitching prospect, Matz had to wait 3 1/2 extra hours to make his much-anticipated debut because the teams needed 13 innings to first complete Saturday's game that was suspended by rain. Picking up in the seventh inning, New York won 2-1 with help from two miscues by Reds infielders. Bobby Parnell (1-0) got the win, while Nate Adcock (0-1) took the loss.

Dodgers 2, Marlins 0

In Miami, Zack Greinke pitched 7 2/3 innings for his first victory since May 5, and the Los Angeles Dodgers took the rubber game of their series against the Miami Marlins.

Greinke (6-2) allowed four hits and held the opposition without a run for his third start in a row, extending his scoreless streak to 20 2/3 innings.

Adrian Gonzalez had three hits, including an RBI double. Howie Kendrick had two hits and drove in a run.

Two relievers completed a five-hitter for the Dodgers' 11th shutout. Kenley Jansen pitched around a leadoff double in the ninth for his 11th save in 12 chances. The Dodgers have allowed 13 runs in their past eight games, and the bullpen has thrown 12 2/3 consecutive scoreless innings in the past five games.

Tigers 5, White Sox 4

In Detroit, James McCann hit a solo homer in the bottom of the ninth inning to complete a dramatic Detroit comeback, and the Tigers beat the Chicago White Sox.

Detroit trailed 4-0 before scoring four runs in the eighth off Chicago starter Jeff Samardzija. Victor Martinez tied it with a three-run double.

Joakim Soria (3-0) pitched a perfect top of the ninth, and McCann's one-out drive off Zach Putnam (1-3) cleared the fence in left field to end the game.

It was McCann's third homer



New York Mets starting pitcher Steven Matz throws during the first inning of a baseball game against the Cincinnati Reds at Citi Field, Sunday, June 28, 2015, in New York. AP

of the year and his first since May 21, when the rookie catcher went deep in the 11th inning to beat Houston.

Blue Jays 3, Rangers 2

In Toronto, Josh Donaldson hit his 18th home run, Drew Hutchison won his fifth straight decision and the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Texas Rangers.

Donaldson got two hits as the Blue Jays sent Texas to its eighth loss in 10 games.

Hutchison (8-1) allowed one unearned run and four hits in 5 2/3 innings. He improved to 6-1 with a 2.12 ERA in eight home starts. Roberto Osuna got four outs for his second save as the Blue Jays beat the Rangers for the 12th time in 16 meetings.

Rougned Odor doubled to start the ninth, but Prince Fielder and Adrian Beltre flied out before Osuna struck out Mitch Moreland on three pitches.

Red Sox 5, Rays 3

In St. Petersburg, David Ortiz, Pablo Sandoval and Alejandro De Aza homered to back the pitching of Justin Masterson and lead the Boston Red Sox over the Tampa Bay Rays.

The victory clinched a series win for the last-place Red Sox and stopped Chris Archer's career-best six-game winning streak. Ortiz hit a two-run shot off Archer (9-5) in the fourth inning, the slugger's 31st career homer at Tropicana Field—more than any visiting player.

Sandoval and De Aza, who homered for the third time in four days, went deep in the second inning for a 2-0 lead.

Braves 2, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, Alex Wood pitched shutout ball into the eighth inning to win for the first time in five starts, and the Atlanta Braves edged the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Jace Peterson hit his third homer for the Braves as they ended a season-high, five-game losing streak. Wood (5-5) scattered five hits and struck out eight without a walk in 7 1/3 innings. Jason Grilli gave up a run in the ninth, but earned his 21st save.

Atlanta didn't do much against Pittsburgh starter Jeff Locke (4-4), managing only an RBI single by Markakis in the fifth. Peterson homered off reliever Vance Worley in the seventh to give the Braves a little breathing room.

Astros 3, Yankees 1

In Houston, rookie Carlos Correa doubled twice and scored the tie-breaking run on a triple by Evan Gattis in the seventh inning to help the Houston Astros top the New York Yankees.

Collin McHugh (9-3) allowed a season-low two hits -- both singles -- and one run and eight strikeouts in eight innings for his third straight win. Luke Gregerson pitched a perfect ninth for his 18th save.

The game was tied 1-1 when Correa doubled with no outs in the seventh and advanced to third on a sacrifice bunt by Jose Altuve. The triple by Gattis, which sailed just out of reach of center fielder Brett Gardner, scored Correa and put Houston on top 2-1.

Brewers 5, Twins 3

In Milwaukee, Ryan Braun and Adam Lind hit two-run homers in the eighth inning and the Milwaukee Brewers beat the Minnesota Twins.

Down 5-1, the Twins rallied in the ninth. Torii Hunter, who homered twice Saturday, hit a two-run homer off Francisco Rodriguez. Two outs later, the Twins got a pair of singles before Brian Dozier looked at strike three for the final out.

Will Smith (4-0) retired the Twins in order in the eighth, helping the Brewers win the series.

Angels 3, Mariners 2, 10 innings

In Anaheim, Kole Calhoun scored the winning run on a wild pitch by Tom Wilhelmson in the 10th after Albert Pujols grounded into a bases-loaded double play against a five-man infield, and the Los Angeles Angels beat the Seattle Mariners.

Trevor Gott (1-0) earned his first major league victory with a perfect 10th.

Johnny Giavotella led off the Angels' half of the 10th with a line-drive single off the glove of Wilhelmson (1-2). Calhoun followed with a hit-and-run single, and Mike Trout was intentionally walked for the second straight time.

Nationals 3, Phillies 2, 1st Game Phillies 8, Nationals 5, 2nd Game

In Philadelphia, Cesar Hernandez had four hits, and the Philadelphia Phillies stopped Washington's eight-game win-

ning streak with a victory over the Nationals in the second half of a doubleheader.

Maikel Franco drove in three runs for Philadelphia, which had dropped three in a row. Severino Gonzalez (3-2) allowed four runs and six hits in 5 1/3 innings. Odubel Herrera had three hits and drove in a run.

Ian Desmond and Jose Lobaton homered for Washington, but Tanner Roark (3-3) was knocked out in the fourth inning.

Orioles 4, Indians 0, 1st Game Orioles 8, Indians 0, 2nd Game

In Baltimore, Chris Tillman pitched seven innings of four-hit ball to win his fourth straight decision, and the Baltimore Orioles breezed past the Cleveland Indians to complete a doubleheader sweep.

In the afternoon game, Ubaldo Jimenez (7-3) tossed eight crisp innings and Baltimore got home runs from Jimmy Paredes and Manny Machado.

The sweep boosted the Orioles to the top of the AL East by percentage points over Tampa Bay. Baltimore (41-34) has won 15 of 19 to move a season-high seven games above .500. It was the first time since Sept. 6, 1974, that the Orioles registered shutouts in both games of a doubleheader, according to STATS. The opposition that day was also Cleveland.

Tillman (6-7) struck out six and walked none, and hasn't lost since May 31.

Giants 6, Rockies 3

In San Francisco, Madison Bumgarner pitched into the eighth inning and hit his eighth career homer, helping the San Francisco Giants beat the Colorado Rockies.

Buster Posey drove in three runs for San Francisco, and Matt Duffy was a single short of the cycle. Brandon Crawford connected for his 10th homer, matching his career-best total from last season.

Bumgarner (8-4) allowed two runs on Nolan Arenado's 23rd homer in the first and five hits in 7 2/3 innings. He also belted a solo shot in the seventh and recorded his 1,000th career strikeout.

Royals 5, Athletics 3

In Oakland, Jeremy Guthrie struck out a season-high seven batters in six innings and Salvador Perez homered to help the Kansas City Royals complete a three-game sweep of the Oakland Athletics.

Omar Infante hit a tiebreaking single in a three-run sixth inning for the Royals, who have won five of six to open a nine-game road trip. After winning two of three in Seattle, Kansas City swept the A's for the first time since 2008.

Guthrie (6-5) allowed two runs and topped 1,000 career strikeouts. Wade Davis pitched the ninth for his ninth save in as many chances.

Diamondbacks 6, Padres 4

In San Diego, Welington Castillo, Jake Lamb and David Peralta homered, leading the Arizona Diamondbacks over the San Diego Padres.

Chase Anderson (4-2) pitched seven innings to help Arizona snap a three-game losing streak. Brad Ziegler worked the ninth for his 12th save.

Derek Norris homered twice for San Diego, and Matt Kemp had a solo shot. The Padres were trying for their first three-game win streak in more than three weeks.

Cardinals 4, Cubs 1

In St. Louis, Carlos Martinez was stingy before and after a lengthy rain delay, and the St. Louis Cardinals hit a season-high six doubles to sweep the Chicago Cubs with a victory that extended their winning streak to six games.

Jason Heyward, Yadier Molina and Matt Carpenter had run-scoring doubles for St. Louis, which is a major league-best 51-24. The Cardinals' 29-7 home record also is tops in the majors and is the second-best start in franchise history, trailing only a 31-4 start by the 1885 Browns, according to STATS.

Martinez (9-3) allowed one run and two hits in six innings with six strikeouts for the Cardinals, whose home start is the best in the divisional era since 1969, topping the Expos' 28-7 record in 1979.

3 CNMI jr. players make Top 10 rankings

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Three CNMI junior tennis players barged into Oceania Tennis Federation's Top 10 rankings for the boys 14 and under age group in the Pacific.

Robbie Schorr is the highest ranked Commonwealth player at No. 2, as he earned 1,500 points from the North Pacific Regional Championships 2015 held in Guam early this month. Schorr ruled the singles event of the regionals and finished third in the doubles (with Ken Song). Song and Vincent Tudela also made it to

the Top 10, placing fourth and ninth, respectively, as of June 27.

Song, who collected 800 ranking points, was runner-up to Schorr in the singles event, while Tudela (440) finished second in the doubles and fourth in the singles. Two more CNMI bets are in the Top 35 with Haruya Eda at No. 19 (240) and Steven Goodwin at No. 25 (140). Vanuatu's Clement Mainguy leads the rankings with his 2,500 points.

CNMI coach Jeff Race said ranking points came from the various tournaments sanctioned by OTF. He added that each tournament has different levels as far as awarding of points is concerned with the upcoming Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji

giving away the most ranking points.

"The regional championship is the second highest and the third will be the tournament the East, West, and North-member countries will each host," Race said.

For the CNMI, which is a member of the North group, ranking points will be at stake in the Tan Holdings Tennis Classic that will be held in November. The Tan Holdings Classic could also draw participants from Guam and the Federated States of Micronesia, as the visitors may get assistance from International Tennis Federation. ITF will also provide support to CNMI players (boys 14 and under) who will be competing in ranking events outside the CNMI.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Ken Song, Robbie Schorr, and Vincent Tudela are in the Top 10 of the Oceania Tennis Federation rankings (Pacific) for the boys 14 and under age group.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Jokers Spartans flash the No. 1 sign after ruling the Kingfisher division of the SEDA 2015 Bud Light Cup.

Jokers rule four more Bud Light Cup divisions

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Jokers-backed teams were triumphant in four more division matches in the 2015 Bud Light Cup last week in various bars on Saipan.

The Jokers Destroyers scored a 9-6 win over the Sand Juvy Pythons to complete their dominating performance in the Masters division, while the Jokers Darty Flights tripped the Smoke Pub Bull It, 8-5, in the Chichirika C division.

The Destroyers also defeated the Sand Juvy Shoot Balut, 9-6, and sister team Darting Chelu's on their way to ruling the division, while the Darty Flight, also the regular season champions, scored an 8-4 decision over the Abyss DNA Jump-It and blanked the Tokers, 8-0, in their own race-to-eight contests.

The Spartans, meanwhile, topped the Kingfisher division after an 8-1 tri-

umph over the Smoke Pub High Flyers. They defeated the Naked Fish Hafa Mas in the semifinals, 8-4, and scored an 8-0 shutout win against the Route 33 Dart Knights.

The Atarashi Boyz, another team supported by Jokers Bar & Grill in Garapan, topped the Tuesday B division, while the Latte Sparts were the Fanihi champions. The Jonny's Kyodai clinched the Flame Tree crown.

In other results, the Sand Juvy Vicious Darters, completed an 8-3 crushing of sister squad Try Luck in their own finals matchup. The Darites defeated the Abyss Pasawayz, 8-5, to clinch a finals berth.

The Jokers Warriors also remain in contention in the A division, which just concluded the regular season. They will face Sand Juvy Sakude on July 6 with the winner advancing to the semifinals set on July 13.

The A division has concluded its regular season with the Route 33 Ma-

fia claiming the top podium with a 197-109 card, following a 15-2 thrashing of the Sand Juvy Sakude. Route 33 Mafia was playing the Naked Fish Darryt at press time.

The Smoke Pub Voyagers nipped the Sand Juvy Predators, 9-8, and were also playing against the same team at press time. The winner of the Darty-Mafia game and the Voyagers-Predators match will clash in the July 6 quarterfinals.

The Sand Juvy Snipers clipped the Smoke Pub Huntlaw, 13-4, the Sand Juvy 101 Proffers downed the Warriors, 11-6, while the Darryt dumped the Sand Juvy No Fear, 13-4.

Other quarterfinals matches on July 6 will have the 101 Proffers battling the Sand Juvy Snipers, Sakude clashing with the Warriors, and the Huntlaw colliding with No Fear in different venues.

Awarding for the regular season and Bud Light Cup will be on Aug. 16 at the Pacific Islands Club Charley's Cabaret.

MAJORS

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manager, and two coaches.

Skywalker managing director Dr. Bo Hu made the check presentation yesterday with the donation made possible through the help of Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council vice chair and Zoning Board treasurer Alice S. Igitol and former CNMI House speaker Oscar C. Rasa.

Bo said Skywalker chose to assist the team's trip to China after learning that they have been fundraising to help ease the travel cost.

"The kids need support. We are focused on helping various events in the community, including sports," said Bo.

"A lot of people in the CNMI love sports specially baseball. We're always happy and ready to help the community," added Bo.

The investment group said they strongly believe that businesses should also establish a good working relationship with the community they are in.

"We believe in the principle of responsible investment. Partnering with the community and the government to assist and enhance the economic and social well-being of

every people," Bo added.

Igitol said she and Rasa decided to look for a sponsor in order to help the All-Star team's trip.

Kiana Aldan, Jordan Babauta, Vicente A. Camacho II, Zachary Camacho, Justin Celis, Orren Cruz, Donaven Deleon Guerrero, Aven Evangelista, Kyle Kapileo, Antonio Deleon Guerrero Norita, Devon B. Pangelinan, Sean Rabauliman, Joven Reyes, and Zakariah Reyes are the members of the team. Joe Flores is the manager with Tomas A. Camacho as the head coach and Michael A. Cruz as assistant.

DLX caging opens next month



Domino Lux International Fraternity will hold the DLX-Saipan Stevedore 8th Invitational Basketball Friendship Basketball League next month at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The league, which will open on July 11, is only for Class B players. Interested teams are requested to submit a copy of their final roster and

pay the \$350 entrance fee on July 8. Only the first 16 teams to register and meet the requirements will be allowed to compete.

All team coaches/players are invited to attend a meeting also on July 8 at 6:30pm at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court to discuss the rules and regulations of the tournament.

For more information, contact Jojo Garon at 483-2939. (PR)

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Richard Atalig had a two-RBI double, bringing in Camacho and Lizama for a 5-0 CNMI lead. Aguon failed to beat the throw of Hong Kong catcher Taishi Ono to shortstop Wilson Yiu at third base to end the inning.

Hong Kong scored one run in the bottom half of the third then added three more in the bottom sixth before Nakamura foiled the visiting team's comeback in the seventh.

In the other Senior League game, Guam scored a 12-6 win over the Philippines to follow up its 10-5 triumph over Hong Kong last Sunday night.

JUNIOR LEAGUE Chinese-Taipei 23, Australia 4

The defending division champion peppered the Australian bullpen with 19 hits for its second straight win.

Liu Ji Hong and Chih Heng Heng went 3-for-4 each with both batters missing only a home run in order to hit the cycle. Liu also had three RBIs, while Lee Meng Che had a two-RBI triple in an eight-run second inning barrage.

Chinese-Taipei also tallied 20 RBIs.

Philippines 16, Guam 4

The Philippines used a pair of five-run innings in beating Guam to somehow

eased the pain of its opening-game loss to Australia, 5-7, last Sunday.

The batters of Team Philippines, represented by Tanauan City, tallied 15 hits and walked 12 times.

The Philippines and Australia now have similar 1-1 records to tie for second place behind undefeated Chinese-Taipei and hosts CNMI, while Guam and Hong Kong remain winless.

BIG LEAGUE Chinese-Taipei 5, Guam 0

Zeng Sheng Chun had a no-relief job on the mound as Chinese-Taipei blanked Guam for its second straight win.

Zeng held Guam to four hits and had 13 strikeouts with one walk, while hitting two batters—Guam second baseman Michael Concepcion and shortstop Tristan Aguero—by pitch.

Philippines 10, CNMI 2

The Philippines frustrated the home team in a match that stretched all the way to 1am Monday morning.

Tournament organizers opted to stop the game, which was initially scheduled to be continued today with the Philippines enjoying the eight-run lead in the top of the sixth.

The win, however, was awarded to the visiting squad after organizers consulted Little League headquarters in South Williamsport in Pennsylvania.

for a tough competition and Winkfield hopes this will inspire them to have great swims in PNG.

"We are looking forward to swimming against teams in the Oceania region. Our swimmers have been training hard all year and I am looking forward to great swims from Victoria, Takumi, and Angel," Winkfield said.

"I am anticipating a lot of fast swimming at this meet, which will feature Olympians and Olympic trials qualifiers. It is a great opportunity for our swimmers to see how they measure up against the top swimmers in our region. This meet is an important stepping stone for our swimmers in gaining experience on a large international scale, as well as for the CNMI swimming program as a whole," the coach added.

CNMI

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er events are 200m backstroke (2:41.70), 200m individual medley (2:45.10), and 50m backstroke (36.50 seconds).

Sugie will join the 50m backstroke event, too, hoping to surpass his PBT of 33.80 seconds. The lone male swimmer on the small squad will have six other sprint races—the 50m (PBT of 27.56 seconds) and 100m (1:00.56) freestyle, 50m (30.60 seconds) and 100m (1:08.66) butterfly, 100m backstroke (1:13.40), and 50m breaststroke (38.60 seconds). The 200m freestyle (2:15.60), 200m backstroke (2:30.50), and 2:35.46 IM (2:35.46) complete Sugie's list of events.

The three CNMI swimmers are in

Northern Marianas Sports Foundation 10K Fun Run

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ



Owen Ji runs ahead of Erico Castro in last Saturday's Northern Marianas Sports Foundation 10-kilometer Fun Run.



Seiya Eda is on his way to finishing second in the men's open division.



Raphael Zapanta, left, heads toward the turn-around point right across Hakubotan in Beach Road.



Rommel Buenaflor is on his way to completing half of the course.



Lawyer Steve Pixley keeps a steady pace.



Steve Johnson, left, and Claire Devey take on the last few meters of the 10K course.



Ruselle Zapanta cruises along Beach Road on his way to a 19th overall finish.



Sakiko Eda slows down as she approaches the finish line at Micro Beach.



Saipan's barefoot runner Chang Whang Jang raises his arms as he crosses the finish line.



Ernie Moises Jr. runs along Beach Road, clocking in at 52:01 in the 10K event.



LeBron bypasses option, becomes free agent

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

NMI Senior leaguers now 3-0

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Nathan Camacho tossed two innings in relief to help Team CNMI complete a 5-4 win over Hong Kong in the Senior League division of the 2015 Asia Pacific Junior, Senior, Big League Baseball Regional Tournament last night at the packed Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.



Camacho held his own against a persistent Hong Kong side to secure the defending Asia Pacific regional champions' third

straight win while keeping the visitors winless in as many games. The lefty pitcher even survived a bases-loaded jam in the bottom of the fifth to the delight of the hometown crowd.

Lorenzo Sebaklim had a leadoff walk in the top of the third, stole second, and later scored on a Brandon Pua RBI triple to put the CNMI on the board and break two scoreless innings.

Anthony Agulto had an infield fly for the first out before Sebaklim reached home plate.

Pua made it 2-0 on an RBI single by Roke Tenorio, while Franko Nakamura also singled but was got caught in a 1-6 play for the second out.

In the next play, Nathan Camacho tacked a single then Henry Lizama also had a base hit to bring in Tenorio. Craig Aguon loaded up the bases, while

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JON PEREZ

Left photo, Philippine Junior League pitcher Marthy Ranada prepares to throw to the plate in their game against Guam yesterday at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field. Right photo, Ethan Babauta, left, waits for the pitch in the CNMI's game against the Philippines last Sunday in the Senior League division of the 2015 Asia Pacific Junior, Senior, and Big League Regional Tournament.



Majors All-Star Team gets boost

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The CNMI Majors All-Stars found a likely partner as they take their next step in their bid to reach the Little League World Series.

The team, which will be competing in next month's Asia Pacific Middle



East Regional Tournament in the City of Guilin in north-eastern China from July 13 to 21, received \$5,406 from Skywalker Communications Group. The donation will cover the visa fees of the entire team—14 players, a

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Skywalker Communications Group managing director Bo Hu, bottom row right, and Zoning Board treasurer Alice S. Igitol, bottom row third right, join the CNMI Majors All-Star Team for a group photo before the squad's practice yesterday at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield.

JON PEREZ

CNMI swimmers leave for PNG today

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Swim Team leaves Saipan today to compete in the XV Pacific Games in Papua New Guinea.

The squad is composed of swimmers Victoria Chentsova, Takumi Sugie, and Angel De Jesus, coach Jacoby Winkfield, and his assistant Elna Delos Santos. Chentsova and company are among the first batch of CNMI athletes and officials going to PNG in time for the Games' opening ceremony on July 4 at the Sir John Guise Outdoor Stadium in Port Moresby. This year's Pacific Games will run until July 18, while the swimming competition at the



Taurama Aquatic Centre and Indoor Sports Complex will be held from July 6 to 12.

Chentsova and Sugie will be participating in 10 events each in PNG, while De Jesus is entered in 11 races.

De Jesus will join the 50m freestyle, 100m freestyle, and 200m freestyle events where she has personal best times of 30.68 seconds, 1:06.33, and 2:33.28, respectively. The Marianas High School student will also have three events in backstroke—50m (37.43 seconds PBT), 100m (1:25.10), and 200m (3:02.24). In the breaststroke

and butterfly, De Jesus will only compete in two events each. Her PBTs in the 50m and 100m breaststroke read at 42.12 seconds and 1:35.60, respectively, while she registered 34.56 seconds and 1:21.19 in the 50m and 100m butterfly events.

Chentsova will also race in the 50m butterfly where she has a PBT of 37.16 seconds, but majority of her events will be in freestyle—50m, 100m, 200m, 400m, and 800m. She broke the 30-second barrier in the 50m freestyle with her PBT of 29.87 seconds, while her other PBTs are 1:04.53 (100m), 2:18.64 (200m), 4:53.66 (400m), and 9:59.78 (800m). Chentsova's three other

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Takumi Sugie, seen here competing in the 50m freestyle race in a local event early this year, is one of the three CNMI swimmers leaving Saipan today to participate in the XV Pacific Games in Papua New Guinea.